FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 MAY 1987

Jordan

Position on Conference — Jordan insists on inviting the PLO to participate in an international peace conference and "what has been said about agreements and contacts is completely baseless," Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated in remarks reported by PETRA-JNA 3 May. The ministers of information and occupied territory affairs likewise denied Israeli media reports that Jordan and Israel have reached agreement on conditions for holding an international conference, *Al-Ra'y* noted the same day. Amman's *Al-Dustur had earlier viewed the Israeli reports of such an* agreement as part of a "U.S.-Israeli maneuver" aimed at sowing division among the Arabs and at excluding the Soviet Union. It is an illusion to talk about changes in the Arab stand on accepting a settlement divesting the international conference of its content, the paper added. *Sawt al-Sha'b* contended that the latest Israeli "maneuvers" are a "test balloon" aimed at measuring reactions to removing the PLO as a principal party to peace negotiations and to convening a conference in accordance with the "Israeli-U.S. formula." The paper accused Israel of seeking to cast doubts on Jordan's explicit stand on convening a conference in which the Palestinians will be represented by the PLO.

Denial of Syrian-Iraqi Meeting — The information minister denied reports that King Husayn recently hosted a meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents inside Jordan, Radio Monte Carlo reported 4 May. The radio noted that reports of the meeting came from Israeli sources cited in the U.S. media. However, Saudi sources quoted by Kuwait's *Al-Qabas* also stated that the Syrian and Iraqi presidents held a 5-hour summit meeting under Husayn's auspices on 27 April, shortly after Syria's Hafiz al-Asad returned from Moscow, KUNA reported. *Al-Qabas said the talks were held in "understanding and a* positive spirit," predicting that a scheduled meeting between the Iraqi and Syrian leaders is expected to be announced shortly.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet privately 5 May before Peres raises his plan for an international conference at the cabinet session the following day, Jerusalem radio reported. Likud ministers vigorously rejected the U.S. formulation of the international conference proposal during a 1 May meeting in which Shamir briefed them on the U.S. paper, Jerusalem television noted.

Regarding Jordan's official reaffirmation insisting on PLO participation in an international conference, Shamir told Jerusalem television that this is "very unpleasant." Nevertheless, Peres stated in a *Hadashot* interview that he possesses "an authoritative declaration that there is a possibility for direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-palestinian delegation which will not have PLO people."

Israeli Raid in Lebanon

A 1 May Israeli air attack on PLO targets near Sidon killed 14 Palestinians and wounded 37, according to PLO sources cited by AFP. Warplanes destroyed Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP targets in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, but refugee homes were also hit, and over half the casualties were civilians. The PLO spoke of a "massacre of civilians" and warned of further Israeli attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon. Beirut radio noted that the raid was carried out by Skyhawks and Phantoms, which fired thermal balloons to decoy surface-to-air missiles.

The IDF spokesman confirmed the attack on "terrorist" targets in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio, announcing that the planes completely destroyed a four-story building and also hit bunkers.

In a subsequent development in southern Lebanon, five SLA soldiers were wounded in a 3 May bomb attack near Jazzin, according to the SLA's Voice of Hope radio.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated at a rally in Kuwait that there will be no international conference on Middle East peace without the PLO, KUNA reported 4 May. The PLO leader contended that the 18th PNC will promote a unified Arab stance and he praised the amir of Kuwait, who had emphasized the importance of Arab support for the PLO during their talks the previous day. Before his visit to Kuwait the PLO leader had met in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who reaffirmed Iraq's "firm support" for the PLO, according to INA. In another development, Tripoli television reported that PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir and DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Libya 3 May. Al-Wazir told the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* that the visit is aimed at rearranging future Palestinian-libyan relations, WAKH reported.

On the question of relations with Egypt, contrasting opinions were expressed by 'Arafat and the PFLP. While KUNA noted 'Arafat's statement that President Husni Mubarak is a "good, noble nationalist whom I respect," a PFLP source cited by Radio Monte Carlo viewed Mubarak's 30 April speech as a "declaration of war" on the PLO and sharply criticized conciliatory remarks about Mubarak expressed by Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's adviser.

Egypt

A 3 May Cairo radio commentary lambasted PLO leaders who repeat a "barrage of lies" against Egypt in a vain attempt to "slip back into Damascus to free PLO funds frozen by the PNSF." The PLO leaders are chasing a "mirage" if they think the Syrian regime will allow them access to these funds, the radio said, adding that "the PLO leaders have sold out Egypt to the Syrian regime for 30 pieces of silver." Cairo's *Al-Akhbar* also criticized the PLO leaders in a 2 May editorial cited by MENA, stating that Egypt's time is too precious to be wasted in discussing the behavior of leaders and groups who make their people's pains and misery a profitable business.

However, both the Liberal Socialist Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping (NPUG) criticized Mubarak for being too hasty in breaking relations with the PLO, according to Kuwait's *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* and the NPUG paper *Al-Ahali*.

Syria

Al-Asad Meeting With PNSF — President Al-Asad held talks on Palestinian developments with a Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) delegation 3 May, Damascus radio reported, noting that Al-asad stressed Syria's continued support for the PNSF and its struggle against "defeatist capitulatory plans." Those present at the meeting included "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum and officials of the Fatah Uprising, Al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, and the Popular Struggle Front.

Soviet Weapon Supplies — A Lebanese source cited by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* disclosed that shipments of "advanced" Soviet tanks and missiles have arrived in Damascus in the wake of Al-Asad's visit to Moscow.

Saudi King in Maghreb

Saudi King Fahd arrived in Oran 3 May for talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Riyadh radio reported. According to Paris radio, the two leaders will travel to the Moroccan border town of Oujda, where they will meet King Hassan II for a "tripartite summit." The discussions are expected to focus on the Western Sahara conflict and relations between Algeria and Morocco.

Iran

Denial of Cross-border Kidnapping — An "informed source" in the Foreign Ministry denied that 12 Turkish nationals kidnapped by Kurds were transferred across the border into Iran, IRNA reported 2 May.

Naval Exercises Planned — Navy Commander Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan told Tehran radio that the navy is prepared to "stand firm" against hostile moves in the "sensitive and vital" Gulf. While explaining that the navy has "complete self-sufficiency" in training, the commander announced that three sets of training maneuvers will be held this year with the first "joint exercise" scheduled for early summer.

DRA

Babrak Karmal, former PDPA general secretary, is being held at Kabul's central jail, "diplomatic sources" in Islamabad told XINHUA 3 May. Karmal was arrested by order of the Revolutionary Council, the sources added.

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KUNA Cites AL-QABAS on Iraq-Jordan-Syria Meeting

LD040902 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — Iraq's Saddam Husayn and Syria's Hafiz al-Asad on Monday met for five hours — thanks to the good offices of Jordan's King Husayn, daily *Al-Qabas* reported today quoting highly placed Saudi sources.

The newspaper said the sensational summit of two leaders who have been deeply at odds for the past decade, was marked by "understanding and a positive spirit."

The meeting took place at [words indistinct] desert region at a post that is close to the triangular frontiers of Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to *Al-Qabas*. The daily noted that the meeting came on the heels of Al-Asad's return from Moscow after the latter exerted strenuous efforts over the past years for the sake of bringing the two leaders together, with a view to settle differences.

Al-Qabas quoted the Saudi source as pointing out that the mediation was initiated by King Husayn while the Soviet role was "effective and important."

Saudi Arabia, added the source, never faltered in its continuous endeavors to bring along a reconciliation between the presidents of Iraq and Syria.

Al-Qabas said the closed door twin Arab summit was preceded Sunday by a preparatory meeting in which King Husayn, Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz participated with Saddam Husayn and Al-Asad.

The Iraqi-Syrian summit encounter, added *Al-Qabas*, will have far-reaching results.

One immediate result, the daily said will be a scheduled meeting between Saddam Husayn and Al-Asad that is expected to be announced shortly.

The Saudi source told the daily that Syria is expected to define her position towards the Gulf war and noted that Iraq's bottom line on that issue is to see Syria becoming "neutral" and work towards strengthening relations between Baghdad and Damascus.

Iraq and Syria first differed on political party ideologies but later the rift widened when Syria supported Iran in the war with Iraq.

[Words indistinct] report which came under a Riyadh dateline, stressed that the basic purpose of the rapprochements between Iraq and Syria was the conviction of the two countries that the Gulf war should come to an end.

Al-Qabas' report differed with a *Newsweek* interview with Israel's 'Ezer Weizman who confirmed the two-way summit which he claimed to have focused on potentials of a Mideast peace process in the coming phase.

Jordan Denies Report

JN040816 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] In a statement this morning to our Amman correspondent, Fu'ad Na'im, Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib denied the report on a meeting involving King Husayn, President Hafiz al-Asad, and President Saddam Husayn. He said: We have no knowledge of this.

PLO Executive Committee To Meet 10 May

LD031755 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has confirmed that the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunis on 10 May to study the latest Palestinian developments, with emphasis on the PLO's relations with Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco. In a press statement, Brother Abu Jihad added that the members of the Executive Committee will consider the PLO's ties with the Arab countries following the declaration by the PNC's 18th session.

Habash To Return to Syria, Meet With Al-Asad

JN011758 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, a PFLP Political Bureau member told me this evening that immediately after the end of the Algiers PNC meeting, PFLP leader Dr George Habash asked that President Hafiz al-Asad receive him and a PFLP delegation in Damascus to discuss the results of the Algiers session, the Palestinian situation, and relations with Syria. My source added that the Syrian authorities told the staff of the PFLP office in Damascus today that President Hafiz al-Asad would welcome Dr Habash in Damascus and agreed to set a date for an audience after his return to the Syrian capital. The PFLP office here has conveyed this to Dr Habash in Algiers.

The source noted that Dr Habash will return to Damascus within 2 or 3 days. He will then be received by President Hafiz al-Asad to examine the normalization of Syrian-PFLP relations.

Palestinian Leaders Comment on Mubarak Speech

DFLP Critical of 'Attack'

JN011813 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The DFLP has issued a strongly worded statement concerning President Husni Mubarak's recent remarks, which the group considers to be directed against the PLO. The DFLP statement said Mubarak's comments followed his failure to enlist the PLO in the American solution.

The DFLP declaration added that Mubarak's remarks on the closure of PLO offices are seen as an attack on Palestinian unity. These comments, the DFLP noted, coincide with Jordan's suspicious attempts to isolate and besiege the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The DFLP statement concluded by calling for all Arab resources to be pooled, and for the alliance with Syria to be strengthened.

PLO's Al-Hasan 'Satisfied'

JN012000 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1747 GMT 1 May 87

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Hasan al-Khashif in Baghdad; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Al-Kashif] Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is now in Baghdad for a visit along with 'Arafat. Radio Monte Carlo is pleased to have this opportunity to discuss today's burning issue, relations between Egypt and the Palestinians. The PNC resolutions contain a paragraph on Egypt. This has been interpreted in various ways. What is your explanation of this passage?

[Al-Hasan] I will not try to get involved in explaining this resolution, as the PNC submitted this resolution to the PLO Executive Committee to lay the foundations for future relations between Egypt and the PLO. When we in the PNC speak on any subject and decide to establish a basis for relations, we start from scratch to define Palestinian policy. This will allow us to have a consensus on this policy among the various Palestinian political forces. The only thing I can say about the PNC resolutions is that during the behind-the-scenes discussions, particularly those held under the supervision of President Chadli Bendjedid, we did not examine the question of whether to continue contacts with Egypt or if there is a connection with Egypt. We passed that point a long time ago. However, what we wanted to establish was that any future policy with Egypt must be governed by certain rules, on which the Palestinian organizations involved in the PLO leadership must agree.

I consider this decision a great step forward, as it focused on defining ties with Egypt on the basis of Palestinian principles, and not any others. These principles are shaped by Egypt's recognition of the PLO, Palestinian self-determination, and the rights of Palestinians to establish their own state. Egypt accepted these precepts a long time ago, particularly since the beginning of President Husni Mubarak's era. In any case, the Executive Committee will meet and the majority's decision will be made. This decision will definitely be a positive one, stressing the growth of ties with Egypt and not the opposite.

[Al-Kashif] But the crisis arose before the Executive Committee meeting. You must have heard President Mubarak's speech yesterday. What do you think of that part of his address devoted to Palestinian-Egyptian relations?

[Al-Hasan] I always tell my brothers on the Fatah Central Committee and in the PLO that President Mubarak is open and sincere. It is true that he is very sensitive about Egypt's sovereignty, which is his right. However, we are dealing with a president who is not only a hero of the October 1973 war — he was the commander of the Egyptian Air Force at the time — but also with a man who tells you exactly where he stands, a man who is truthful. He is a stranger to deception and does not renege on any stand to which he has committed himself.

I want to be frank and say that when I heard President Mubarak's speech I was satisfied, as the problems that were raised can be solved. Most of these issues represent the Palestinian viewpoint in general. We are with Egypt — president and people. We were happy to hear the Egyptian president ask us to deal with all Egyptians, as all of Egypt is on the side of the Palestinian revolution. This is a clear fact. However, I was also satisfied because I feel the picture conveyed to Egyptian leaders on the PNC proceedings and the resolution issued was not a clear one. Therefore, I hope that when the picture becomes clear the Egyptian attitude will return to what we wish it to be.

[Al-Kashif] You are not pessimistic about the future of your relations with Egypt. However, there is a crisis in that area. What will happen and what steps have you taken to deal with it?

[Al-Hasan] First it must be understood that the Palestinians desperately need Egypt, both internationally and in the field of political action. I personally believe that any Palestinian policy maker must have winning the support of Egypt and the question of how to benefit from it as his top priorities. We have done this many times in the past. [Word indistinct] that President Mubarak waged the most violent battles with the United States over the PLO, and that Egypt worked behind the scenes in support of the PLO on all the strategic issues and in the area of political action. Therefore, we will decide not to let Egypt drift away from the PLO and not to permit ourselves to drift away from Egypt. We are now trying to arrange a Palestinian-Egyptian meeting in which all issues will be discussed and all problems that caused trouble for both sides will be defined.

At this point, I would like to thank three people who worked with love and sincerity on behalf of the Palestinian cause. They are King Fahd, President Saddam Husayn, and the amir of Kuwait. I hope that through their individual moves on this particular point we will succeed together, both Palestinians and Egyptians, in (?getting together).

PFLP Condemns Al-Hasan Remarks

JN021342 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 2 May 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Commenting on statements to our station by Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan on President Mubarak's speech and Egypt's decision to close PLO offices in Cairo, a responsible source in the PFLP has told us that Hani al-Hasan's expression of satisfaction with the Egyptian president's address, which has provoked the Palestinian people, conflicts with the resolution adopted in Algiers on Palestinian-Egyptian relations. Hani al-Hasan's comments reflect his well-known personal views. The Algiers resolution on relations with the Camp David regime is clear, and is not open for interpretation. It cannot take Hani al-Hasan's explanations and his praise for President Mubarak's heroism, sincerity, and integrity.

The source said that while viewing Egypt's recent measures and President Mubarak's speech as a declaration of war on the PLO and its national program, the PFLP urges the PLO Executive Committee to answer the Camp David regime's insolence toward the Palestinian people and to their cause and leaders in a way that will undercut all attempts by Hani al-Hasan and those like him.

In another development, [Fatah dissident] Samir Abu Kuwayk [Samir al-Qadri] said the unionist trend within Fatah considers the Algiers meeting and resolutions as national achievements on the road to recovering PLO unity and its nationalist role. He noted that these accomplishments are a basis for entrenching Palestinian national unity. He added that the unionist trend within Fatah declares that the time has come to initiate a serious and responsible dialogue to reunite the Fatah Movement on the basis of its political program and statutes and by completing what has already been done.

PLO's Qaddumi Says Egyptian Measures Unjustified

JN021535 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] London, 2 May (WAKH) — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, has expressed regret at Cairo's decision to close all PLO offices and affiliated agencies in Egypt. In a statement to be published Monday in the London magazine *Al-Dustur*, Qaddumi said the PLO sees no justification for such steps and the subsequent uproar. After all, the PLO affirmed through the PNC resolutions its eagerness to maintain fraternal relations between Egypt and the Palestinian people. In addition, there has been no significant change in the PLO's position on Egypt.

Commenting on Morocco's angry reaction to the Polisario's participation in the PNC session, Qaddumi said the PLO has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states and that the PLO's relations with fraternal countries are based on Arab summit resolutions. He added that the PLO will not involve itself in regional problems and in disputes in the Arab world and between fraternal countries without being asked to do so. He also indicated that the PLO has never backed one side against the other. Qaddumi explained that the PLO would defend itself if any part of the Palestinian question or any vital Palestinian interests were threatened, and that the PLO would clearly set out its position on this. He said he hoped the fraternal Arab states would not intefere in PLO affairs or undermine the Palestinian march.

Rules Out Conference

JN021417 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, does not believe an international Middle East peace conference can be convened at present. Addressing the General Union of Palestinian Workers in Tunis yesterday on Labor Day, Qaddumi said the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole representative, are the only parties capable of solving the Palestinian problem.

Rejects 'Containment'

JN021946 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, has said we reject anyone's tutelage now that we have become a full member of the Arab League and the Nonaligned Movement.

In a speech at a ceremony held by the General Union of Palestinian Workers in Tunis yesterday on Labor Day, Brother Abu al-Lutf added that we should be more enlightened now and after the maturity of the Palestinian position.

Those who hold the key to the Palestinian question are the Palestinians. No one but the PLO can represent them, and there will be no sponsorship, custodianship, or containment, he explained.

Al-'Abbas on 'Achille Lauro' Factional Disputes

Opposed Ship's Seizure

AU271034 Vienna PROFIL in German
No 17/27 Apr 87 p 35

[Interview with Palestine Liberation Front leader 'Abu al-'Abbas (Muhammad 'Abbas), by Otmar Lahodynsky in Algiers during the 18th PNC session; date not given]

[Text] *Profil*: You want to be reelected to the new PLO Executive Committee. Do you think that is possible after your people hijacked the Italian luxury liner *Achille Lauro*?

'Abbas: Whether I represent my organization on the PLO Executive Committee depends on the decision of my Politburo. I would like to say clearly that I opposed this action. The PLO did express thanks that my help brought the entire hijacking to a close quickly and without bloodshed.

Profil: But your people brutally murdered Leon Klinghoffer, who was in a wheelchair.

'Abbas: Again, I had nothing to do with that. Unfortunately, mistakes were made. That is why I rushed to the scene to stop the affair.

Profil: It is said that your people actually wanted to leave the ship during a stopover in Israel and intended to stage a commando action there.

'Abbas: Hmm. Possibly. But the PLO has never excluded armed activities in the occupied areas.

Profil: You cannot allow yourself be seen in public outside the Arab states and Eastern Europe. Does this bother you?

'Abbas: I made it clear to the Italian authorities that I will appear at a trial if the court demands it. I had nothing to do with that action.

Discusses Tal'at Yaqub

PM010851 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch
25 Apr 87 p 4

[Interview with Palestinian leader Abu al-'Abbas (Muhammad al-'Abbas) by Michael Stein in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpt] Algiers, 25 Apr — [passage omitted] Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas Zaidan] does not look like the personification of terrorism. His clothes are a little too perfect, his stomach a bit too round. If you were to see him and his admirers getting food from vending machines on Amsterdam's Nieuwendijk with cans of beer in their hands you would think you were looking at soccer fans on a Sunday, overgrown boys who did not do too well at school and who now live on public relief.

But appearances are deceptive, for Abu al-'Abbas talks and laughs a little too loudly, although he has learned exactly what he must say. He is extremely cautious, almost mean with his words, when he talks about his four comrades in prison in Italy. In a month's time, they will be appealing their sentences for their role in the seizure of the *Achille Lauro* and the murder of Leon Klinghoffer. "They made a mistake and they are paying for it now." There is no more of the boasting of only a year ago that Abu al-'Abbas would soon free his comrades in a spectacular new operation.

A responsible leader and freedom fighter is talking here, speaking of "mistakes in execution." His men were simply to travel to the Israeli port of Ashdod and there take part in the armed Palestinian struggle. Their most important error was that they did not listen to all the instructions they were given. They were discovered too early and then took the ship and its passengers hostage. Abu al-'Abbas does not know whether they murdered Klinghoffer. "I was not there. I know nothing more about it because they were kidnapped by the Americans. The Italians know more about it. They have the evidence."

Abu al-'Abbas' group [the Palestine Liberation Front] will again be represented on the new PLO Executive Committee. He does not know whether he himself will sit on the committee. "That will be decided by my organization's Political Bureau." The problem is that although the other wing of his group, which, under the leadership of Tal'at Yaqub sought closer links with Syria in 1983, as the Abu al-'Abbas faction allied itself too closely with 'Arafat, may now be reconciled with him, "there are still difficulties that will be very hard to solve, for Tal'at Yaqub wants to go back to Syria."

So, does he still have problems with Tal'at Yaqub? "No, my only problems are with the United States and Hawatimah (the leader of the DFLP, who was reconciled with 'Arafat last week)." "There is a personal problem between me and the Americans, who talk only about the *Achille Lauro*, although there have been many other terrorist attacks."

But what are the problems with Tal'at Yaqub? "Everything between us is fine. I proposed him as a member of the PNC and he was admitted. But Hawatimah is stirring things up because he wants more power."

The whole starts to sound very gloomy to the listener, for it is clear that Abu al-'Abbas does not like Hawatimah and his people very much. "They are too Marxist for me." Nor is he very keen on Dr George Habash's PFLP. "They may call themselves independent, but they follow the Syrian path far too closely." He himself is very close to 'Arafat's Fatah. When asked what ideological differences he has with Fatah, he hesitates, but then comes up with the liberating thought: "We are nationalists; with us the national interest comes before everything else." That was why he opposed the accord which 'Arafat reached with Jordan's King Husayn in 1985 and is also against the ties which the PLO has with Saudi Arabia "and the other reactionary Arabs." However, he has not yet broken with Fatah over this, and he will stay on the PLO Executive Committee. When I helped him a little by asking if he might be a "progressive Fatah," he said with relief, "Yes, you could say that."

Abu al-'Abbas, together with all the other groups in the PLO, will step up the armed struggle in Israel and the occupied areas. "We will be taking more arms there; there are many ways to get them in. And then you will see that we are no longer fighting with stones in the occupied areas, but with modern weapons."

A new group of journalists is sitting waiting — Egyptians. They want to know what Abu al-'Abbas thinks of their country. And in complete conformity with the political line staked out by 'Arafat, Abu al-'Abbas replies that relations with the Egyptian people can never be broken off. "We must not leave Egypt to the United States and Israel, but we must ensure that Egypt abrogates the Camp David accords."

'Arafat can be pleased with the respectable young man Abu al-'Abbas has become.

KUWAIT

Al-Ahmad Discussses Arab Summit, Gulf Security

LD012034 Kuwait KUNA in English 1909 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 1 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has been quoted as saying current developments in the Arab world make it imperative that an Arab summit conference convene in the earliest time possible.

Shaykh Sabah said holding the summit was "necessary" despite of all circumstances, particularly in view of the recent crack in the Arab fold which appeared in the wake of the last week Palestine National Council's session in Algiers.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo broadcast last night, specifically cited the rift in Palestinian relations with both Jordan and Egypt following the scrapping of the Palestine Liberation Organization's accord with Jordan on joint action for Middle East peace.

Responding to a question, the Kuwaiti senior diplomat said Kuwait had chartered Soviet tankers in implementation of the principle of "prevention is better than cure."

He recalled that more than 28 oil tankers — Kuwaiti ones or those en route to Kuwait — have been intercepted, attacked, or checked in the Gulf waters in less than three years.

Shaykh Sabah said the United States had offered to provide military escort for Kuwaiti oil tankers "but Kuwait found that the offer does not meet the desired end" and turned it down.

In Moscow, a government newspaper last night emphasized that the agreement between Moscow and Kuwait on the use of Soviet tankers had "a purely mercantile" purpose.

The evening daily *Izvestiya* said the Gulf was a zone of "free shipping" and the Soviet ships have been cruising it for decades.

The paper pinpointed the reciprocity implied in the agreement with Kuwait, saying that Moscow would use Kuwaiti ships for shipping Soviet exports.

The daily rejected any foreign intervention about with whom such agreements should be concluded, apparently in reference to recent implicit Iranian warnings to the Soviet Union.

Iran has threatened that its navy would search all ships crossing the Strait of Hormuz "regardless of the flags they were flying."

Ministry Spokesman Comments

LD031323 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May — A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman affirmed to KUNA today that the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, had clearly expressed his ideas concerning the transporation of the Kuwaiti oil on a commercial basis dictated by Kuwait's interests and the regional conditions in the area.

The spokesman was thus commenting on the imprecise manner in which his interview with Paris Radio Monte Carlo was reported by some local papers.

The spokesman pointed out that it was natural for the countries of the world to show an interest in the developments taking place in this sensitive area and for each country to adopt positions and manifest reactions that suit it in regard to all developments in the area.

He added that it was customary for the reaction of the other countries to be subjective, automatic, and based on their perceptions of their duties and interests.

If the commentator who conducted the interview had come up with interpretations that reflect his personal understanding of the meaning or implications of the statements of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, this should not necessarily be taken as reflecting the views of Kuwait or as its approval of his analysis.

'Arafat Arrives; Reviews PNC Conference

Praises Amir's Role

LD030905 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 3 May 85

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May — Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that he will be giving senior Kuwaiti officials, headed by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, a full and detailed picture of what took place during the 18th PNC meeting held recently in Algiers.

Speaking to the press on his arrival from Baghdad after midnight last night for a few days' visit, 'Arafat said that he will discuss with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait and chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, the latest developments in the Palestininian, Arab, and international arenas "following the convocation of our National Council and the Palestinian reunion."

'Arafat praised Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad's efforts in this regard and said that "he made a good contribution toward the convocation of the PNC meeting and the securing of its success, through the efforts his highness had silently exerted." He added, "we cherish these efforts, and feel proud of our kinsmen in Kuwait, our beloved country."

He added that he will also be discussing all issues raised on the various levels with the brother officials.

'Arafat described the disputes that developed between the PLO and some of the Arab countries as a result of the resolutions adopted by the 18th PNC session "as minor disputes."

When he was asked whether the PLO would be taking steps to put an end to these disputes, 'Arafat expressed optimism in this regard.

He strongly denied that the head of the PLO's office in the Libyan Jamahiriyah had been expelled from Libya, saying, "that is not true at all."

He also denied that the PFLP secretary general, Dr George Habash, had been banned from entering Syria. "This too is not true at all," he said.

'Arafat said that his political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, has not begun his visit to Egypt yet. Asked if he would visit Egypt following Al-Hasan's visit, 'Arafat said, "As you know, I love Egypt, and I am not affected in this respect by this decision or that. What has happened will not change my view, which is understood by all, near and far alike."

With regard to Palestinian-Syrian relations, the PLO Executive Committee chairman affirmed that a decision "was made to open a new chapter with the brothers in Syria and to contribute positively along with our Arab brothers to the establishment of a solid Arab stance that would safeguard our nation and advance it through major steps toward the challenges imposed on us."

He said that this process had begun during the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait last January "when good people began to work and good efforts were made toward the establishment of a unified Arab stance and toward speeding up the convocation of an Arab summit conference."

He expressed his hope that the Arab summit conference would be held as soon as possible and said that the good Arab efforts have been exerted in every place and in every direction since the Islamic Summit Conference.

Meets With Amir

LD031416 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 May (KUNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, had a meeting with the Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, here this morning. No official announcement has been made on what was discussed at the meeting but it is expected that 'Arafat has briefed the amir on the results of the PNC — the Palestinian parliament in exile — meetings recently held in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Addresses PLO Rally

LD040947 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 4 May 87

[By Saleh Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night affirmed here that no international conference on peace in the Middle East well be held without the PLO.

In a rally at the PLO office here, 'Arafat said the results of the 18th session of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) held recently in Algiers will soon be sensed, and will be reflected in the form of a unified Arab stance that speeds up the holding of the Arab summit conference.

The PLO chairman hailed the wisdom of his highness the amir and what his highness has told him at their meeting yesterday about "the importance of an Arab strong position to back the Palestinian latest stance in order to enforce the holding of the international conference."

'Arafat described the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as "good, noble and nationalist whom I respect."

'Arafat disclosed that 4900 Palestinians were killed or injured in the last round of the camps war in Lebanon between the Lebanese Amal Movement and the Palestinian defenders of the refugee camps.

Speaking about the latest Israeli air raid on the Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon, 'Arafat said Israel has used for the first time 2000-kilogram bombs in its raid against the camps.

On the latest differences between Egypt and the PLO following the 18th session of the PNC, 'Arafat said the Palestinian organization is trying to resolve the differences quietly, and stressed his deep respect to President Mubarak.

He disclosed that after President Mubarak came to office, he sent him a message asking him to stop dealing with the Palestinian part of Camp David Accords and that Mubarak has agreed to do so.

On the international conference on peace in the Middle East, 'Arafat said this idea has not come out of vacuum or from the desire of the U.S., but has emerged from the will of the Palestinian people and the steadfastness of the Palestinian refugee camps which "dictated the statement of the European Economic Community" that supported the idea.

The PLO chairman emphasized that no peace conference could be held without the PLO and stressed that the PLO is committed to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan, who attended the rally, said Syria is a major part of the political and military map of the region, and pointed out that the PLO is dealing with Syria in the same spirit as that with Egypt.

Hasan called on the Palestinian leaders "to stop making statements as if each one of them is a superman, without waiting for reactions to his statements."

He added that "we should only say what is beneficial to the revolution, and what is harmful, even if it is correct, should not be said."

Al-'Usaymi Confers With Soviet Ambassador

LD291748 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, has conferred with Ernest Zverev, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait. KUNA reports that Al-'Usaymi told newsmen the meeting dealt with the good relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union, as well as the outcome of the visit by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy to Kuwait and the region. Developments in the Arab and international situation were examined as well.

PDRY

'Abdallah Returns From YAR; Reports on Visit

EA031949 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin [Abdallah], member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, has returned to Aden from Sanaa after ending his visit of several days to the northern part. Brother Fadl Muhsin explained in a statement to ANA that his visit to the north was part of the exchange of visits between brotherly officials on both sides for the purpose of exchanging views regarding the interests of the homeland's two parts. He said that during his stay in the capital he met Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and gave him a letter from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

He said that during the meeting they exchanged views on a number of issues of great importance to both parts of the homeland, regarding land and people. Brother Fadl Muhsin Abdallah expressed his happiness and joy over the success of the visit and the development of militant relations between the two parts in a way that advances unity, cooperation, and integration between the two halves. It is noteworthy that Brother Fadl Muhsin Abdallah met immediately upon his return to Aden with Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and delivered a reply from his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Agricultural Delegation Departs for CEMA Talks

EA031528 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform headed by Brother Ahmad 'Ali al-Zubaydi, the assistant deputy minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, left this morning for the Hungarian People's Republic on a visit of several days, during which it will take part in the 66th session of CEMA's Permanent Committee for Agriculture, to be held between the 4th and the 8th of this month. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Official Georgiev Arrives on Visit

EA011522 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Georgi Dimitrov Georgiev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the People's and Governmental Control Committee in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived in Aden this evening on an official several-day visit to democratic Yemen. The delegation will hold talks with the leadership of the Higher Committee for People's Control in Democratic Yemen with the aim of developing relations between the People's Control Committees of the two friendly countries as well as exchanging experiences in the field of people's and government control. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin

EA031525 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] The first round of talks between the delegation of the Higher Committee of the People's Control of our country and the delegation of the People's and Governmental Control Committee of the People's Republic of Bulgaria began yesterday evening. Our country's delegation was led by Brother Mahdi Abdullah Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Higher Committee for People's Control, and the Bulgarian side by Comrade Georgi Dimitrov Georgiev, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the People's and Governmental Control Committee in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. During their talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations in the field of people's control. They also discussed cooperation, specifically in the exchange of experiences, and of training Yemeni cadres.

Brother Mahdi Abdullah Sa'id expressed his satisfaction at the development and growth of relations between our country and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, stressing that cooperation between the two People's Control Committees of the two friendly countries would expand through exchange of expertise and studying Bulgaria's experiences. The comrade chairman of the Bulgarian delegation also expressed his pleasure at visiting our country and discussing cooperation between the People's Control Committees in Democratic Yemen and Bulgaria.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Leaves for Algeria-Morocco Summit

LD031941 Paris Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Saudi Arabia's King Fahd left Cannes this afternoon to take part in the Algerian-Moroccan summit to take place tomorrow in Oujda, the border town between the two countries. So far, nothing has been reported on this tripartite summit.

UAE

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Back From PRC

JN291033 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that during talks with Chinese representatives led by Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, it was agreed to make joint efforts, particularly at the United Nations and the Security Council, to end the Iraq-Iran war, the continuation of which endangers security and stability in the region and freedom of navigation in the Gulf. This came in a statement by 'Abdallah to WAM on his return from Beijing after a visit of several days to the PRC.

'Abdallah added that it was also agreed to work to convene an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Rashid 'Abdallah described his trip to the PRC as successful. He added that it will contribute to the growth of bilateral relations. He noted: It was agreed the two countries would coordinate and cooperate in all fields and develop their bilateral ties.

YAR

Salih Receives Message From PDRY's Al-Bid

JN300611 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2016 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Apr (WAKH) — YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received a message from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. Sanaa radio said that Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, conveyed the message when he was received by President Salih in Sanaa today. 'Abdallah arrived in Sanaa today with the message, which deals with issues related to the unification of the two parts of Yemen and the creation of conditions to serve the Yemeni people's national interests.

Envoy Departs; Makes Statement

JN021411 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, left Sanaa yesterday after concluding a 3-day visit to the northern part of the homeland.

In a statement to SABA', 'Abdallah noted that his visit falls within the framework of the exchange of visits between the brother officials in the two parts of the homeland in order to exchange views on what concerns the northern and southern parts of Yemen. He added that during his visit to Sanaa he met with brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and conveyed to him a message from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland. He pointed out that during the meeting the two sides exchanged views on a number of issues which affect the interests of the Yemeni people and government. He expressed happiness regarding the success of the visit and the development of fraternal and struggle relations between the two parts of the homeland which will promote the issues of unity, cooperation, and integration between the two parts of the homeland in all fields.

Upon departure, 'Abdallah was seen off by Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arshi, minister of state for unity affairs and a member of the Standing Committee, and Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the unity affairs office.

President Mubarak Delivers May Day Address

NC302010 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0948 GMT 30 Apr 87

[May Day address delivered by President Husni Mubarak at the Railway Club in Cairo's Nasr City — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers and sisters, upright workers of Egypt. From this podium I would like to congratulate you on the beginning of the blessed and holy month of Ramadan. May God bestow His favor and blessings on us all. May this month inspire us to search for and attain the deepest meaning of self-discipline and self-denial and the most profound feelings of commitment and responsibility toward one another.

What an opportunity it is for us to celebrate workers day, a day that commemorates mankind's struggle for the right to work and achieve. More importantly, it is a day to honor the principles of social justice, principles which highlight the truth that there can be no rights without duties and no duties without rights.

This logical equation recognizes man's duty to society and society's duty to man. There is no longer any argument over this. It is a fact that has been imposed by the workers' heroic struggle throughout the world. [applause]

We thank God that our society is based on this justice and on this balance between rights and duties. We also thank God that the workers of Egypt are in the vanguard in terms of their commitment to duty and their awareness of a higher national responsibility. I am fully convinced of this. Personal observations made during tours of production sites across Egypt only serve to reinforce this belief.

Our factories have achieved a quantitative and qualitative jump in production thanks to large-scale replacement and modernization of plants at a cost of millions of pounds. The technical operation of the most up-to-date and sophisticated machinery has reached an impressive level. As for the export of Egyptian products, emphasis has been placed on their ability to compete in foreign markets.

Production has reached new levels. Several plants and projects are now run on the basis of scientific and economically efficient methods. These are all positive signs for the future, despite the difficult economic conditions we faced last year. We could not have surmounted these obstacles had we not been fully aware of the fact that we alone can solve our problems. Egyptian manpower and expertise are always capable of standing firm and meeting every challenge.

Wherever we look on Egyptian soil, we see courageous and tireless activity. We see unceasing work, day and night, to conquer the desert, build new factories, and update production, agricultural, and industrial methods. The Egyptian countryside has become a huge network of production cells, run by hundreds of thousands of Egyptians. Briefly speaking, the outcome of all this is to change life on Egyptian soil and pave the way for a bright future for every Egyptian. This is the great message that has been entrusted to a nation that understands the significance of human life on this planet. Man is the maker of glory and civilization and the promoter of construction and progress. The most significant factor in this historical evolution is that prominence is accorded to labor as a basic ethical and social value, which plays an important part in molding an individual's behavior and his concept of his role as a good citizen. We should all work to strengthen this concept and implant it in the hearts of our sons during their formative years.It is an indispensable factor in crystallizing a sense of identity with the homeland, inspiring feelings of honor and pride at being part of the big family, and rising above individualism and selfishness.

When we talk about what has been achieved on Egyptian soil in recent years, we basically mean production and the increase in production. This represents the highest objective of national action at this stage. In the first place, it is the fruit of your sincere efforts, your hard struggle, and your dedication, arising from your love for the dear homeland. [applause and cheers] Production and achievements belong to the people. Anyone who strikes at production and achievement is actually dealing a tendentious blow to the Egyptian people, to every worker who sweats on its soil, to everyone who contributes to its progress, and to Egypt's reputation, respectability, and dignity.

Some have said that my field trips to production sites were designed to make propaganda for the ruling party. Nothing could be further from my thoughts. These visits form an integral part of my duties. They are meant to provide me with first-hand information about the realities of production in our country, to encourage successful and dedicated work, and to solve any problems that may impede production. They are also a way of keeping the masses abreast of current constructive work, and thus, giving them further proof that the facts speak for themselves, regardless of the loud, desperate, and biased voices that may be raised. The plain fact is that worksites in Egypt give a bright picture of the Egyptian worker, the Egyptian technician, and the Egyptian manager. The facts prove that more is being accomplished every day, the economic and social development plan is taking its course, and the severe external challenges we have faced have neither paralyzed nor disabled us nor affected Egypt's will. The Egyptian will is the will to construct, build, and develop a better society.

Loyalty to Egypt is our weapon, and construction for the sake of Egypt is our goal and purpose. We will not forsake the "made in Egypt" label. [applause] This label is neither a party motto nor a campaign slogan. It is not something used to maneuver or deceive. It is a defined national goal, expressed by a working plan and the will to work. This objective is reached by the hands of honest folk, who have vowed to God and the homeland that they will build, press forward, reconstruct, and raise Egypt's name, reputation, and dignity to the highest level. All of you here are proponents of this label, and are making it a reality through diligence, hard work, and a spirit of loyalty.

From this rostrum, and on this day of labor and laborers, I declare that any attempt to belittle the performance, competence, nationalism, and commitment of the Egyptian worker is doomed to failure. I say to those few voices in Egypt that no attempt to distort the accomplishments of our workers will flourish on Egyptian soil. [applause] I am very sorry to hear such distortions from Egyptians. They should be proud of the magnificent achievements of Egyptian hands and minds. We hear words of astonishment, appreciation, and praise from foreign visitors who tour work and production sites. Some of these visitors are surprised to see Egypt building great industrial fortresses, and setting new records in accelerating production on huge projects that depend on the most modern technology. Foreigners are congratulating and praising us, while defeatists, to whom Egypt has offered so much, deny, defame and distort our achievements, and compete to see who can sling the most mud.

Brothers and sisters: Egyptian workers need no testimonial from anyone to their loyalty to the country and their devotion to the pan-Arab cause. [applause]

The workers of Egypt were the ones who offered martyrs. They built launching pads under an open sky. The workers of Egypt were the ones who gave the war front and the home front the support that helped us stand fast until victory. The workers of Egypt were the ones who protected their factories and equipment against sabotage. They worked extra hours to prove they are the defenders of production and stability. The workers of Egypt are the ones who work at full capacity today to help us overcome the effects of the economic problems facing the Egyptian people. The Egyptian workers were the ones who, with rational thinking and awareness, thwarted attempts to destabilize the country. They realized that any harm to stability would mean the demolition of our industrial and economic structure, threatening the livelihood of every family on the soil of this homeland. I need not say that the system of rule in Egypt will never give way or bargain over three basic principles: namely, freedom that does not infringe on the freedom of others; achievement that reflects an increase in production, and provides jobs and services to the public; and stability that enriches every action, defends freedom, preserves accomplishments, provides safety, security, and hope for every Egyptian home, and generates energies for further progress. Therefore, I repeat, and will always repeat, that stability is our road to prosperity.

Only a stable Egypt can win respect for its views in the international community. It is a stable Egypt that cooperates with the superpowers and all countries of the world in the interest of Egyptians. A stable Egypt is respected and trusted by all international institutions and groups. In a stable Egypt, the investor is confident that his noney is safe. A stable Egypt has, in 5 years, accomplished more than was done in 50 years in the past. A stable Egypt builds factories, establishes universities, schools, and hospitals, and provides jobs for hundreds of thousands. A stable Egypt is the safety, security, and protector of sanctities and the rule of law. Any harm to stability in Egypt can have but one result: namely, to endanger all the gains enjoyed by the Egyptian people. Any harm to stability will bring development to a halt, destroy the economy, and paralyze the wheel of production. Any harm to stability will mean a real setback. It would take more than 20 years to overcome the effects of such a reverse. Let that be clearly understood. Destabilization is the road to anarchy and destruction. A stable Egypt chose democracy as its way of life. If stability is harmed, democracy and freedom are harmed. The end result will be autocracy and the tyranny of ignorance.

Democratic Egypt will not be fooled by flashy slogans that are superficial and lacking in substance. [applause] We will not deviate from democracy as the path to a free and dignified life. If democracy is to be our way of life, the protection of stability must be our course of action, our guide, and our decision. This is not open to any maneuvering or bargaining. Stability is the highest interest, and the safety of the homeland is above any other consideration.

Protecting this safety is the primary responsibility of the state. It must not hesitate to discharge this responsibility scrupulously, boldly and firmly, utilizing all the resources at its disposal. No saboteur who threatens the safety of the homeland or the basic interests of its people will be tolerated. No mercy will be shown to those who make all other hearts bleed. Freedom will not retreat before its enemies, even if they hide behind words that conceal their evil intent and sins. The partisans of partition and anarchy will not stop the march toward achievement. Let them know without a doubt that stability will neither be shaken nor driven back before the cries of injustice, recklessness, and ignorance.

We do not seek stability with the ambition to rule or because we are tempted by the desire for a position. Power is not a gain and positions will not last forever. [applause] We protect stability in the interests of millions to ensure their right to lead a safe and dignified life, to protect their right to democracy and freedom, and to allow them to take part in making decisions. Therefore, the People's Assembly elections were held in full view of the entire world and followed by the mass media everywhere. Despite the desperate attempts by some to insinuate that the free elections in Egypt massacred democracy, impartial pens commended the atmosphere of freedom and honesty that prevailed during the voting. Such people will say it is a massacre every time for the next 100 years.

They say the elections were a massacre of democracy. I do not understand why they did not make such statements before democracy was established. If a student fails a test, do you expect him to say: I did not study. [laughter] He will say that the teacher was wrong. [applause] I have one simple comment to make to our fellow countrymen: I was not referring to any specific person in my last remark. It was a general statement. Anyone who does not achieve what he wants will never blame himself. That is human nature.

There is one thing about the recent elections that I do regret. We all talk about freedom and democracy. We try to carry out reforms to improve the situation. The people must take part in electing their representatives. If the representative is elected by only the few who vote, he will not truly represent all citizens. [applause] While on this subject I would like to comment on the behavior in some of the governorates. A governorate like Cairo has approximately 1.2 million voters. The inhabitants of Cairo have the country's greatest rate of consumption. The largest expenditure for telephone lines, electricity, water, sewerage, and bridges is spent in Cairo. They write very well in the papers of Cairo. How many citizens out of the 1.2 million potential voters do you think actually went to the polls? Only 200,000. [A member of the audience asks why this happened and Mubarak responds] Everyone asks: Will my voice make any difference? There are many reasons for such conduct. I think it is shameful for Cairo to have responded in this way. [applause] You must ask yourselves the reason why.

There are governorates such as Al-Gharbiyah, Al-Daqlahiyah, and Al-Manufiyah, where as many as 360,000 votes were cast in one constituency. This is 1 and 1/2 times more than the number of ballots cast in Cairo. It is shameful that the registered voters of Cairo should fail to carry out this national duty.

In other governorates such as Suez, only 20 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. Why? It is only two steps to the polling stations in Suez. The voter did not have to take a bus to go there. There were no traffic jams. What is the problem, and why was there only a 20 percent turnout? Democracy requires that citizens be consicientious. It requires that everyone participate in the election of deputies so that we may have a People's Assembly of high caliber.

[Mubarak responds to an indistinct remark by a member of the audience] We will talk to you about that later, Mustafa. You had better keep silent. This is not the time to discuss court verdicts.

One of the primary responsibilities of a citizen anxious to see the democratic process continue is to carry out his general duties, foremost of which is voting in elections. This is the only way to ensure popular participation in setting policy, decision-making, and supervising the activities of official bodies and institutions.

Brother and sisters, we work and achieve, and we double our work and achievement to increase production so we may have greater income and more jobs, improve the quality of services, and strengthen our trade position and balance of payments. This will permit us to continue implementing the development plan, and meet our food and production needs, while fulfilling the international commitments arising from our loans.

I would like to take a little moment here to explain how foreign loans have been used in the past few years. We laid down narrow limits for ourselves, and established controls, after introducing, for the first time, the principle that loans were only to be sought in the case of utmost need. The state and government borrowed only $10 billion between the beginning of 1982 and the end of 1986. Where would I obtain money for you?

You know that the total income of the state is 12 billion [Egyptian] pounds. The entire revenues of the state, some of which go to subsidies and to buy food, amount to 12 billion pounds. Of this sum, 5 billion pounds go to pay salaries. No state in the world, other than those that do not know what to do with their money, can match this. Moreover, there are pensions and similar expenses. We need money to pay them. Where would I get the money? Would I take it from you to give it back to you?

The subsidies amount to 1,746 million and the installments on domestic loans to 1,608 million pounds. In the end only 193 million pounds are left, and there is nothing left over for the construction of schools, hospitals, and so on. The budget funds are all earmarked for wages and salaries. Our construction is paid for by foreign and domestic loans, as there is not a single penny left over from the budget. If we need to build a hospital, we have to get a loan, either at home or abroad. So where did the 10 billion go?

You know that at the beginning of the 5-year plan there was no infrastructure. Had we not started this plan and decided what our needs and priorities were, I do not believe we would have been able to reach the level of implementation we attained by the end of this plan. So the infrastructure was zero. In Cairo — where the people do not go to the polls — had we left the sewerage system unattended to, all of you today would have to wear boots to walk around, like firemen, as the streets would be full of sewage. We have spent about 7 billion pounds, not in Cairo alone, on water and sewerage systems, telephones, electricity, tunnels, railroads, and other utilities — 7 billion pounds. We have no choice but to rely on loans. We have spent 1.8 billion on production requirements, renovations, and other related matters, and 1.2 billion on wheat, so that you may eat and throw half of it in the garbage. This is how the 10 billion pounds borrowed by the state have been spent. Now you know where the money has gone.

Let me tell you that a loan can be obtained only through an agreement, and this agreement specifies how the loan is to be used. For example, if a certain country gives Egypt a loan for its railroads, I cannot demand that this loan be spent on tomatoes, motorcycles, or something else. No. The fact is that I need locomotives, equipment, workshops, and a certain country is giving me a loan to keep the railroads, which are in a slump, operating. I need the railway and he wants to make an investment. This is the deal. I cannot tell him that I want to use the loan to buy Coca-Cola, for instance; of course he would say no, because he wants to keep some of his factories running. Each country grants loans for a specific purpose, and the loans can never be diverted to something else unless another agreement is signed.

I take every opportunity to talk about achievements, so every citizen may know that we are committed to serious and dedicated work for the country's comprehensive reconstruction, for the sake of the present and future. Some international economists have described our accomplishments as a miracle in view of the very difficult domestic and foreign circumstances we face: wars that have cost us billions, the deterioration of the infrastructure to the point of collapse, and a serious and sudden drop in oil prices. The price of oil declined from $30 [a barrel] to $5 in 3 or 4 months. [Mubarak is interrupted by members of the audience] It is true that the price is going up again, but goods are still expensive. The price of oil is now $17 or 18, compared with the previous price of $30. The price of oil has gone down, while the price of the commodities we buy from abroad has stayed the same. Then the dollar went down, with the result that things we buy from Germany have become terribly expensive. [Mubarak is interrupted by a member of the audience reminding him of revenue from the Suez Canal] Revenue from the Suez Canal did not increase. Do you want to sell it? [cheers]

In addition to the serious and sudden decline in oil prices there has been an enormous increase in population. The population is increasing so fast that we cannot keep up with it and the accompanying jump in the need for food. Whenever we achieve a growth rate of 8 percent, the increase in population eats up 6 percent, leaving only 2 percent. We are in a difficult situation and, to be honest, if we go on like this a time will come when we will not be able to manage. It is a very difficult matter.

It is enough to know that our population has increased by 6 million in just 5 years. This is the equivalent of the entire population of one or two states around us — do you see what I mean? In only 5 years, our population increased by the amount of the population of one or two entire states. Our population increase is comparable to the entire population of other states.

I return to the big question. Every Egyptian man and woman should know the honest and correct answer to this question, without any exaggeration, detraction, or deception. In terms of facts and figures, what have we achieved in the first years of the plan? I will tell you about some of the accomplishments. Most of you know about them, but the people listening to us today may like to hear about our achievements, the achievements of Egypt's sons and workers.

I will not go into detail, but I will give some striking examples of the figures for annual investments. I will compare the figures for two periods: 1950 to 1981, a period of 31 years; and 1982 to 1986 inclusive, the 5 years of the plan. I will compare the two periods so we may see the differences. Annual investments totaled 3,700 million pounds during the 31-year period, and 7,500 million pounds during the 5-year plan. The number of projects undertaken in the production sector between 1950 and 1981 was 1,220. These figures come from the statistics department. The number of projects launched during the 5 years of the plan from 1982 to 1986 reached 1,942. Notice that 1,220 was the total for 31 years, while under our plan we implemented 1,942 projects. Regarding the number of national industrial products — types of industrial items we manufactured — the figure for the earlier period was 1,240, while in the 5 years of the plan we produced 2,510 new commodities in addition to these 1,240. In 31 years, 12 public sector factories were renovated, while during the plan we renovated 250 plants. These are enormous figures.

As for agricultural production, if the increase in our agricultural output had not kept pace with the growth in population, we would have no food to eat today. Yet we say prices are high. Without this production increase, prices would now be 10 times greater, rather than double, because of the limited supply and the large demand. Demand is increasing every year. Our population is going up by well over 1 million a year, so we demand more. The production of rice, vegetables, fruit, greens, poultry, red meat, fish, eggs, and dairy produce has increased. That is to say, there has been an increase in most food items. Otherwise, we would not have been able to face the situation at all, nor would we have been able to buy any food for our people.

Concerning the building materials needed for housing, in the earlier period our annual cement output was 3.7 million tons, while today the figure has reached 8.2 million tons, an increase of 5 million tons in 5 years. Similarly, production of reinforced steel has risen from 356,000 tons to today's figure of 1 million tons. Sheet glass production was 14,000 [unit not specified], and is now 26,000. I am comparing production over a 30-year period with what has been achieved by your hands in the years of the plan. I did not do this. You did, and it was your work and your production. The production of medicines has doubled. Tourism has begun to increase, God willing.

Electricity: Without it, not a single factory would work. From the introduction of electricity in the Arab Republic of Egypt in 1906 until late December 1981, our maximum production was 17 billion kilowatts per hour, including the High Dam and all other sources. During the years of the plan, production reached 45 billion kilowatts per hour. This is a difference of 28 billion kilowatts per hour after the 5-year plan, more than the maximum generated for 75 years.

Education: Before the beginning of the plan we had 3,166 schools. The number reached 4,750. The number of classrooms increased from 122,000 to 199,000. Thus, the number of classrooms rose by 77,000 during the 5-year plan. The number of pupils jumped from 5.4 million to 7.6 million, a very rapid increase.

Before the plan we had 9,170 km of paved roads. After the plan the number rose to 15,000 km — very large figures. There are many examples. I am giving you just a few figures so you can see the scope of your accomplishments. When foreigners see these achievements they are amazed, and term them a miracle. A foreigner who returns to Cairo or other cities after 5 or 6 years is always surprised.

Bridges: As of 1981, there were 21 bridges within Greater Cairo. Cairo was not overpopulated then. We built 34 bridges as part of the 5-year plan in 1982, and there are 7 under construction, bringing the total to 41. In other governorates, 17 bridges were constructed over main roads and the Nile during the earlier period. We have built 35 since then, twice the number that had been erected in 50 years. Is this not a miracle?

Locomotives: The railroad sector has been an area of great development. We had 158 engines. During the 5-year plan, under enormous pressure, the number of engines rose to 485; from 158 to 485. The length of railway networks renovated in the past 30 years was 625 km. This figure rose to 1,130 km during the years of the plan.

We had four seaports before, and now we have seven. The number of docks rose from 9 to 29 under the 5-year plan. The capacity of those docks had been 1.8 million tons, including all those where overstacking was a practice, and ships had to pay demurrage. Capacity is now 19.1 million tons, and the number of cargo ships has risen from 15 to 41.

Telephone lines: We had only 600,000 telephone lines, and now we have 1.4 million. Direct dialing has been introduced in cities. This is on top of other improvements to the phone system. I will not talk about that, because you know what direct dialing is. You can now reach areas within the country and outside automatically. There have been some remarkable improvements in our phone system.

Housing, potable water, and sewerage: A total of 612,000 housing units were built between 1953 and 1981. Some 865,000 were constructed under the 5-year plan. As for sewerage, 10 systems were built within 10 years. This is not a poor reflection on the previous 30 years. Our situation demanded this. We are now trying to show that under the current conditions we have achieved tremendous goals. Thus, Egyptians have been able to make tremendous strides in a short time with a little concentration. During the 5-year plan we established eight new systems, and still more are under construction in Cairo and Alexandria.

There is also much to say about the medical field, including health care units. Certain types of facilities have been established that did not exist before. For example, we had no intensive care units before the plan, and now we have 70. Nor did we have any ultrasound examination or burn centers. Today we have 76 burn centers, 24 ultrasound units, 35 endoscope units, 6 open heart surgery centers, 12 cobalt treatment units, 24 computerized tomography units, and 800 kidney dialysis centers. We still need more, but all this has been done in the last 5 years.

The construction of some hospitals began in the sixties and seventies, but they were not completed, perhaps due to a shortage of reinforced steel. In certain cases, the building stopped after the first story. Therefore, before building any new hospitals, we had to finish the old ones to provide services to those in densely populated areas.

Let me tell you about hospital construction. The Asyut University Hospital was planned in 1965, but its construction only began under the current 5-year plan. The 'Ayn Shams Hospital was planned in 1978. It remained idle until the start of our plan, when we began to repair it. The kidney unit at Al-Mansurah University was planned in 1970 and was built during the current plan. The Gynecological Hospital at 'Ayn Shams University was planned in 1970, but, it, too, was made a reality only in the last 5 years. The construction of the Qalyub Hospital began in 1974 but was not completed until the current plan. The Shibin al-Qanatir Hospital was planned in 1974 and is now being finished. The East Alexandira Hospital was planned in 1974, the General Hospital in Damietta in 1977, the Luxor Hospital in 1972, the Al-Zaqaziq Hospital in 1973, the Kafr al-Duwwar Hospital in 1973, the Al-Matariyah Hospital in 1970, the Heart Center in Imbabah in 1978, and the Nasir Health Care Unit in 1971. All these hospitals were planned in the sixties and seventies, but they only became a reality under our plan. Some of them have are now totally finished and open. While sections of some are completed and operating, other wings will be finished by the end of the plan. This is a true achievement.

We now come to the cost of subsidies, although the international institutions give us headaches when we mention it. However, you must know. How can I kept it a secret? I will not trouble you with all of them, but I do want to say that the total cost of state subsidies comes to about 5.502 billion pounds. This includes subsidies for goods, textiles, medicines, dairies, housing, railroads, and potable water. The government is compelled to pay the ministries the difference for every product you buy at good prices. The annual cost of subsidizing a family is 583 pounds, which makes the monthly price about 50 pounds. Where are we expected to find the money for the new subsidy budgets given our growing population?

In addition, there were 1.2 million insured persons in 1956. This number rose to 2.5 million in 1966, to 4.8 million in 1976, and to 12 million in 1986. Do you know how much we spent on pensions? We spent 1.25 billion pounds. In other words, we are spending 4 million pounds a day for pensions and insurance. These are enormous sums, but I mention these figures only so you know where your money goes.

What remains is the second great question: What shall we accomplish in the second 5-year plan? The second 5-year plan faces major challenges. While the amount of investment was 37 billion pounds under the first 5-year plan, the targeted amount for the second plan has jumped to 46 billion pounds. That is an increase of 9 billion pounds, despite the numerous problems we face, which could lead to a decline in economic activity. We hope the second 5-year plan will provide 2 million jobs for our people, for an annual average of 400,000.

The mainstay of the second 5-year plan is our goal of reliance on Egyptian resources rather than foreign loans for the biggest share of development financing. This requires strenuous efforts to shore up the intrinsic force of the Egyptian economy. This will come only through increasing production and resources.

You know that we are currently imposing restrictions on loans. Loans were handled differently in the past. For example, any ambassador whose country enjoyed surplus funds would go to any governorate and offer the governor 20 or 50 million pounds for development purposes. Naturally, the governor would jump at the chance and sign an agreement. But who paid the debt? The government. This, of course, led to problems. The government found that during a given year certain individuals had contracted loans, but that the entire process was uncoordinated. Everyone used to sign for loans, but no one repaid them. The situation is different now. There is coordination. When you want a loan now, you must tell us when you can begin repayment. If you have a heavy burden this year, you should try to indicate in the agreement when will you be able to pay.

Moreover, I tell anyone who needs a loan now: You should be able to pay. It is so easy to get a loan. But why should the government pay for you? Where can the government get the money? We do not have a well in Jabal al-Muqattam to pay all these loans. When you obtain a loan you should repay it, just as everyone else in the world does. Otherwise, we will reach a point where we would be absolutely unable to repay anything but nonprofit loans affecting our infrastructure plans.

In the first 5-year plan we focused on consolidating the infrastructure, because without this there could have been no development. We developed our systems of electricity, roads, transport, water, and sewerage. We revived all idle resources in factories. We also concentrated on collapsing services. None of this generates direct, immediate revenue, but they are factors indispensible for production. In other words, without the infrastructure we can neither build a factory nor increase production. Such is the importance of the infrastructure. It is impossible to build a house without water. Likewise, it is impossible to build a house without a sewerage system. You may say there is water, but water without drainage would flood an entire area. You can build a house without electricity, but that would entail the consumption of additional fuel. You need water, electricity, sewerage systems, telephone lines, and roads if you want to build a factory. Thus, nothing can be built without the infrastructure.

Someone once told me: Let us do the sewerage system; let us build water networks. But if we improve the water networks, where will this water go? Our drainage systems are in bad shape. They want us to build such networks in the desert, but when the people go to live there these systems will be destroyed by mice, foxes, and wolves.

Should I spend money on electricity while leaving other projects undone? There should be coordination in every sphere. Today we must promote areas of production that can generate revenue quickly, which the people can see in their daily lives. Production can achieve the objectives of exports and ensure continuation of the resources necessary for the development process.

Perhaps the most important factor we must heed within the campaign to increase production, exports, use of local materials in new projects, and efficiency of existing projects is for Egyptian capital to play the major role in the public and private sectors in building the new Egypt.

I urge every Egyptian to enter the field of investment, employing savings in the service of the development objectives that will benefit him and his children and that will constitute the major guarantee for him and his homeland in facing all contingencies.

Every piaster an Egyptian invests to increase production and improve the quality of Egyptian goods is a praiseworthy effort, as it enhances the march of national action. It is our duty to provide the proper climate for the Egyptian investor, to protect him against any unfair or arbitrary act, and to remove all obstacles in his way. All the state's departments and institutions must honor these commitments and give them root, so they will be felt by every citizen.

Half a million Egyptians apply for work each year and each new job demands an investment of between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds. This means that we need at least 10 billion pounds in new investment. We want national investments primarily. Unless Egyptians invest and declare their confidence in their own economy and future, it will be difficult to attract Arab and foreign investment. Let us follow the example of those citizens who have voluntarily carried out health and educational projects to serve their people and country and to raise the standard of living in their areas. They are giving the greatest help to the government, which, in view of its limited resources, is unable to provide all services.

The government is poor. We are poor when you compare our income and population with any of our neighbors. We are like the worker who gets 12 pounds a month and wants to feed a family of 50. It is exactly like that. Twelve billion pounds and 12 pounds. Where do I get the money?

I am pleased to announce that the value of private sector projects in one of the governorates has reached approximately 334 million pounds. Take a town like Port Said — and let them hear me — it is full of money. Show me the private initiatives there. You walk on the sidewalks and you see they are cracked. They do not want to spend a piaster. Why? Why don't you clean your town? The government cannot help you.

The other governorates are contributing and doing something. There is a man who has opened an industrial school at a cost of 4 million pounds to himself. I still thank and applaud this person. [applause] This is the embodiment of Egypt's daring spirit, which proves itself in times of hardship and generates the energy to move mountains.

The projects that have begun to sprout up since we met last year give an encouraging picture and prove that we are capable of achievements and excellent performance. The only possible solution before us is to overcome all obstacles and to create new jobs for Egypt's sons. We all know that the government absorbs 3,200,000 employees, a huge figure for any country. We also know that the private sector, the bedrock of development and the source of pride for every Egyptian, absorbs 1,700,000 employees and workers. [applause] These are huge figures, the likes of which do not exist in any state of the world, especially those of the Third World.

If we do not create new jobs through new investment, where will Egypt's young people go? We hear those who speak about the problems of youth, who incite them to despair, and who exaggerate the obstacles before them. It is also time for Egypt to hear those who urge new investment in industry and agriculture, to provide jobs for the young and to fill their hearts with hope.

Brothers and sisters, we must also meet the challenge of increasing the industrial production of both the public and private sectors. The public sector's assets, including those of the banking sector, amount to 107 billion pounds, generating a production output worth 35 billion pounds. We want this figure to reach at least 50 billion pounds. Several plans to reach this objective have been successfully applied in the capitalist and socialist countries, resulting in an increase in public sector production. It is our duty to examine these successful cases, applying whatever seems compatible with our environment and socioeconomic system. Some people might say that our [public sector] products are cheap and that their prices must rise to keep the factories running and the workers happy. All right, we will increase [the prices of] these goods, but remember that market prices will go up as well. Do not complain to me about it and ask for an increase in salaries, for where am I to get the money to provide you with such a raise? It is a vicious circle. The only possible solution is to increase production. Then the problem of price increases can be solved.

As for the private sector, I must say that it is required to do a great deal in agriculture and industry. Let our objective be self-sufficiency in goods and services, better quality Egyptian products, and the penetration of foreign markets with due might and ability. After all, each Egyptian good sold abroad represents a medal on the chests of our noble Egyptian workers and proof of their ability to compete and excel despite all challenges. Our objective in the agricultural sector is to reclaim 200,000 acres a year, bearing in mind that reclamation costs 3,000 pounds an acre. This means that we need 600 million pounds per annum. Several countries have carried out successful experiments in this area, and have created special funds away from the state treasury to finance the reclamation process. They have used advanced administrative systems and created specialized companies to provide the necessary raw materials and to do any marketing needed. The officials in charge of our agricultural production must benefit from these experiments. These were just a few examples of the fields of activity that have no boundaries and can be embarked upon. The coming 5-year plan is designed to cover many such domains.

I will give you a brief description of the coming 5-year plan. It will be submitted to the constitutional and parliamentary bodies for discussion, as it should be put in force by 1 July of this year. The target for investment under this coming plan, which begins in 1987-88 and ends 1991-92, God willing, is estimated at $46.5 billion, including 18 billion pounds [as heard] for the private sector. This means that the private sector must play a larger role in the plan. I will give an example of the funds allocated for one sector: The public utilities sector, which includes the sewerage and other systems, still needs 4 billion pounds so we can continue work on sewers in Cairo, the governorates, and all the other cities, and finish them by about 1991-92. The transportation and communications sector requires 4.7 billion, industry needs 5.8 billion, agriculture and land reclamation 2.3 billion, and electricity 4.7 billion. Furthermore, all these expenditures are necessary, as we cannot ignore agriculture, industry, electricity, transportation, communications, or public utilities. They are all essential sectors envisaged in the coming 5-year plan, but I will not go into detail now, as it is still under study. [Mubarak is interrupted by the audience and he responds] That would be a disaster, that would be a disaster; however, they can hear me now.

Having spoken about the development plan and our view of the future, I find it necessary to explain our foreign policy and our action in various international circles, in view of the close interrelationship between these two facets of our national action.

Essentially, our foreign policy revolves around two major axes. The first, naturally, requires consolidation of our national security and protection of the supreme strategic interests of both Egypt and the Arab nation. The second requires that the goals of development be served and that the necessary international circumstances be created to permit struggling Egyptian people to satisfy their ambitions and attain their aspirations and hopes.

Therefore, we are striving to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with all nations and peoples, to enlarge our circle of common interests and mutual benefits, and to narrow differences and remove contradictions whenever possible.

Our weapon in this march is our ability to offer greater understanding and cooperation with any state that participates with us in this endeavor. Our protective shield is that we would never forgo our sovereignty nor mortgage our will to anyone, even if he were to own the planet and everything on it. This is because Egypt is the cradle of light and freedom and the birthplace of dignity and pride. Egypt is too tough to be broken by even the most presumptous of tyrants. It is the rock upon which all challenges are crushed. [applause]

We seek cooperation and understanding with all peoples and nations. In addition, we are working to consolidate the structure of peace, as peace is the key to stability and security and the mission of human beings on God's earth. It is the essence of religions and creeds and represents the highest degree of human commitment and cultural progress. Without peace, the logic of force gains the upper hand and law becomes the law of the jungle.

We can feel the fruits of this positive policy and its reflections within the various international circles in which we are active. This is evident in the participation of several friendly states in the implementation of our development plans and in the influx of foreign capital to help us increase production. It is equally evident in the transfer of modern technology from states ahead of us in this field. This technology transfer is a basic issue for us, one to which we must give the highest priority in our planning and work. It represents our greatest challenge in the current epoch.

Our contacts with several states over the last few months have revealed that there are broad possibilities for action in this field. It is important that I make special mention of the prospects available for wider cooperation with the fraternal African states, which are our eternal allies and partners in our future and destiny. All of the African leaders with whom we met recently have shown a sincere and true desire to enter into a partnership with us without unfairness or exploitation, which will give a strong impetus to unilateral efforts to develop production and administrative systems. This partnership will help us meet our needs through equitable trade deals, which will greatly reduce the burdens resulting from our transactions with the outside world.

This principle is applied differently to other circles with which Egypt has special links. This is because we share integrated interests with most of the Third World countries, for they are at the same stage of socioeconomic development and face the same challenges we do.

Though Egypt seeks to deepen friendship and cooperation with the other peoples of the world, this does not mean that it should be lenient in confronting anything that damages its dignity or violates the Egyptian people's rights, regardless of the source or pretexts used. [applause]

I will now tell you why the PLO offices in Egypt have been closed. I am not accusing anyone, but I will give the facts and ask both you and the rest of the world to serve as witnesses to their behavior. This issue has been building for some time. It is not new, and is not the result of the PNC session. Rather, it began with certain strange statements. When the [Egyptian] delegation returned from the PNC [meetings], I was prompted to make a review and assess what had really taken place.

On 19 March, I heard that someone called Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] had made a statement. The man was here with 'Arafat. With due respect to 'Arafat — I would not rebuke him, for he is a good man and I understand the circumstances he is in — but he said: Egypt, during the era of 'Abd al-Nasir... [Mubarak interjects comment] I am trying here to show you that when this happened I immediately had to ask myself, what is going on? Abu Iyad said: Egypt, during the era of 'Abd al-Nasir and at the outset of Al-Sadat's era, was a secure place for the Palestinians. But Egypt is now imposing psychological, security, and political restrictions on the Palestinians' presence.

This means that I am now imposing political, security and international [as heard] restrictions. No state in the world allows absolute freedom to any human being, whether he comes from that state or abroad. Abu Iyad also said: Egypt now accepts only 8 or 10 Palestinian students, when it was once crowded with thousands. He demanded that Egypt take a definite stand on the results of the Camp David accords and not take a negative position on the basic issues affecting the Palestinian people.

I asked myself: What happened? Why is this happening now? We asked them what the problem was. They replied: Don't listen to such talk, for press reports are usually twisted. How twisted! I usually read the world news both in the morning and at noon, and also as the bulletins arrive. Should I believe them when they say they did not make this or that statement in the United States or the Soviet Union? Does this mean that the entire press is making up its stories? Certainly, there must be some truth to them.

I want to tell him now that there are 2,665 Palestinian students in our universities and institutes. We have 117 Palestinian students working toward their master's and doctorate degrees. When we asked: What happened, what is the problem, and why this bombshell, he said: No problem. He then declared that relations with Egypt remain strong and affirmed the return of Egypt and its people to the Arab nation. It is so strange. But let's forget that. [laughter] I said, perhaps he made a mistake, for some of them occasionally do not know what they are saying.

On 31 March one of them was in Libya. Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] made a statement to the Libyan news agency. He alluded to the relations between the PLO and Egypt. I want you to pay close attention to how events developed. He reiterated that his movement rejects the Camp David accords. Let them do so, who cares? Did we force them to accept the accords? They rejected the second document of the Camp David accords and we then refused to sign it.

Abu Jihad wants us to abrogate the treaty. The abrogation of the treaty would mean the declaration of a state of war. No. I have international commitments. I say quite openly that the abrogation of the treaty would mean the declaration of a state of war. Let us speak clearly, without beating around the bush: Should I abrogate a treaty, an international commitment? This would mean a loss of confidence in any Egyptian treaties and the declaration of a state of war with Israel. Let us be very clear and frank. If anyone wants to do this, let him come forward and take my place.

Abu Jihad added: However, we believe that our presence in Egypt will strengthen the position of the Egyptian people, who oppose these agreements and the attempts at normalization. What about the people and the government? Do we have to harp on the same theme again, and say that we cannot separate people and government? It is the people who choose their leaders. If the people do not want their leaders, those leaders will step down. They keep talking about the people and the government. Let them attend to their own people and government [hukumah]. Then they will see who differentiates between us and them. Then they will see whether there is cohesion between the people and government here or between their people and government.

At that point, Abu Jihad praised the efforts of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to bring about Palestinian unity. Obviously, these remarks annoyed me. I wondered what was causing everyone to make statements all of a sudden.

Someone here made the following remarks in answer to these statements: Commenting on the statement by the PLO spokesman on the need to ascertain the truth of... [Mubarak interjects comment] Later on, they tell us that this is wrong and what has been said is wrong and that these are fabricated statements. Well, deny them then. They denied them in the following manner: Commenting on the statement by the PLO spokesman on the need to ascertain the truth of what the media are saying about the PLO's political stands, particularly that pertaining to Egypt, an official source said that it is natural that the people and Government of Egypt should become familiar with the PLO's position on the basis of statements attributed to leading PLO officials. This is a practice followed by all states.

This means that I should see their officials and ask them if they made any given statement or not. Is there anyone in the entire world who, on hearing a statement, telephones to say: Mr so-and-so, did you make such a statement? Naturally, he would not say mr so-and-so. I said it. Let us assume that there are no contacts or telex communications; let the newspapers work. Can you imagine that every newspaper here in Egypt would, on hearing a statement, telephone to inquire if it were true or not? There would be nothing for the paper to write about if the statement were found to be false.

However, what distorts the picture and upsets the situation is the fact that various PLO sources are given to issuing haphazard and contradictory statements. These statements are slanted according to the capital in which they are issued and according to the relations between the PLO and the country concerned. We told them that these statements are influenced by whims, special factors, and conditions. A person coming from Libya of course slanders Egypt. If he goes to Syria, he will slander Egypt again. If he goes to a good country, he will not slander Egypt.

Despite the support of Egypt's people and government for the Palestinian cause, and despite its principled stand on the justice of this issue, these indisciplined and irresponsible actions on the part of leading members of the organization do, regrettably, damage the PLO and its image in the eyes of the Egyptian people and foreign circles with which we are making efforts on its behalf. We are making efforts with all the major countries in the world. While we are making efforts with the United States, Russia, and the European states, we look around to see the PLO cursing us. What can we say to these countries after that? When we tell them to convene an international conference, they will reply: What international conference? They are swearing at you and they do not want this. We find ourselves in a situation in which we do not know what to say. We issued a statement answering them.

On 3 April, he [not further identified] said that the PLO is eager to maintain good relations with all Arab states, including Egypt. We know that contacts with Egypt serve the aims of our cause, he added, for no one can deny Egypt's status and capabilities. The PLO blames Egyptian officials for dealing with it through the media.

Well, to whom should we listen? Should we close down the telexes and ignore the world news? All television and radio stations tell lies. How should we deal with this? Should someone take a ship and go and ask them if a particular report is true or false?

Such things happened before the PNC was convened. The PNC meetings then took place. Several times in the past I have told Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], whom I still respect despite all that has happened, I told him: Unite your various factions so that you can participate in an international conference; unite so that you can reach an agreement. I have been telling him this since 1984.

When the PNC began its meetings, they started sending us messages to the effect that they were under pressure to sever relations with Egypt. They said pressure was being applied to Abu 'Ammar. This pressure, of course, came from Syria, which had killed them, massacred them, dispersed them, and driven them away. We hurriedly held contacts — I do not want to say with whom — to secure safe passage for them and their ships, which were going to be attacked off the Israeli coast. We did the impossible. I held contacts that I never would have tried had I not been obliged to do so to save them. We peddled the international conference for them. We peddled a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for them; they canceled it. My relations with certain states became tense as a result of my insistence that the PLO be taken into account. It took several states some time to become convinced of what I was saying. Since taking office, I have made great efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause in view of our conviction it is just.

What did they say? They told us the PNC would issue a resolution defining the PLO's relations with Egypt on the basis of the 16th PNC session. I remember that at an NDP parliamentary meeting I once attacked PLO officials for saying: We only deal with the Egyptian people. Such talk is completely meaningless and pointless.

What does the text of the resolution passed by the 16th session in 1983 say? It states: The PNC emphasizes its rejection of the Camp David accords.

Dear friends, reject them if you like. Did I tell you to recognize them? Do not recognize them. His Majesty King Husayn was the first to reject the Camp David agreements, and yet we still talk with each other. When you reject something, must this mean that we then hit each other and start fighting? I do not understand this. You disagree with me. So what? Must we then kill each other and fight with one another? Must we call each other traitors? This is our nature.

[Mubarak resumes reading from PNC resolution] The PNC emphasizes its rejection of the Camp David accords, as well as the autonomy and self-administration plans linked to them.

These plans were frozen. The second paper on autonomy was frozen because they [the Israelis] told us that autonomy would only apply to the inhabitants. We said no. We undertook exchanges on this matter for a long time, but they were suspended in December, December 1981 I believe. These exchanges then stopped.

The Camp David accords consist of two papers. The first one produced the treaty by which we regained our land in exchange for peace. We regained our land in return for peace. We are still trying to ensure that they [the Palestinians] get their land back in return for peace. This is one of the points incorporated in the Fes resolutions: Land for peace.

[Mubarak resumes reading from PNC resolution in mid-sentence]... as well as the autonomy and self-administration plans linked to them.

Friends, we did not approve them. Before their withdrawal in 1982, they [the Israelis] told me to sign a declaration of principles. I refused to do so. Things became tense and great pressure was applied. Despite all this, we were able to get over this hurdle. This meant the matter was finished. Why mention it again in 1983?

[Mubarak resumes reading from PNC resolution in mid-sentence]... and self-administration plans linked to them. Out of a firm belief in the role that Egypt and its great people can play in the Arab struggle, the PNC emphasizes that it stands beside the Egyptian people and their nationalist forces in their struggle.

This implies there are nationalist and non-nationalist forces in Egypt. No sir. You must understand that all Egyptians are nationalists. Regardless of what Egyptians may do, their affiliation to Egypt can never be altered. [applause and cheers] The council emphasizes that it stands beside the Egyptian people and their nationalist forces — as if the Egyptian people can be classified into nationalists and traitors — in their struggle to end the Camp David policy, so that Egypt may resume its central role in the struggle for our Arab homeland. This is like saying: We will fight to the last Egyptian soldier. It is tantamount to drowning Egypt. The resolution goes on to say: The PNC calls on the Executive Committee to promote relations between the PLO and the Egyptian nationalist, democratic, and popular forces, which are struggling against the normalization of the various forms of relations with the Zionist enemy, since this reflects the basic interests of the Arab homeland and supports our Palestinian people's struggle for their national rights. [Mubarak responds to audience interruption] If they do not want a solution that is their business. But if they think they can talk to the people and not the government they are mistaken. Let them play this game in some other country, as we will have nothing of the sort here. We have freedom and we express our opinions freely. We have a ruling party and opposition parties, and they are all respectable and patriotic. Opposition does not mean that the opposition parties will side with them against their own country. Opposition has responsibilities, it has brakes, and any wrongdoing is called to account. This allows the national march, under state supervision, to proceed. So why is this? Let them establish opposition first.

[Mubarak resumes reading from PNC resolution] The council calls on the Executive Committee to define its relations with the Egyptian regime on the basis of the latter's abandonment of the Camp David policy.

By God, I do not understand what the Camp David policy is. First we heard about the Camp David regime and now we hear about the Camp David policy, the normalization and the anti-normalization forces. I have no idea what this normalization is, I do not understand it. This was part of the treaty but what is this normalization? Personally, I do not understand it. Explain it to me. We deal with Israel as we do with any other country in the world. For me there is no such thing as a most favored nation. I am saying this now. They hear me. I have told them this more than 100 times. So what is this normalization? Do they want me to talk about normalization? I believe our Palestinian brothers would prefer that I not speak of normalization. [cheers] For me normalization means a relationship between two equals. They are talking about normalization. I would prefer to say nothing. [cheers]

Naturally, this entire issue and all this pressure form part of an attempt to reconcile with Syria. Syria, another country, and Al-Qadhdhafi — three countries — are behind this. They put pressure on Abu 'Ammar there [in Algiers]. They have issued the same resolution saying that dealings [with Egypt] must be based on the conference recommendations I have just read to you. This means the same talk about the Egyptian people and the democratic and popular forces. They told me this is just for local consumption, and not to pay too much attention to it. But I do not accept this local consumption business. How long are we going to talk about local consumption? This is something that was done in 1983. What harm have we done to them since then? We have done a great deal for them. I refused to sign the declaration of principles on autonomy, and the [Israeli] withdrawal might have been endangered. I put the case for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement before the United States and various other countries, so that a Palestinian delegation, including PLO members, might join the Jordanian delegation. I told them the PLO was indispensable. In the United States I said no one can replace the PLO. I talked about this issue and explained it on numerous occasions, as if it were a personal matter that concerns me and not one that concerns an entire people, as if it were something of my very own. After all this, they came and talked about the people and God knows what, and then they said to me never mind, never mind, let us reconcile. This fragile unity they have established will collapse after a while, it will collapse and they will start fighting each other. That is certain. [applause]

After they issued the statement on the 16th session, the head of the so-called Political Department [Faruq Qaddumi] said that on the basis of this session's resolutions, the PNC rejects the Camp David course and accords. I do not understand what is meant by the Camp David course, policy, and similar terms. He added that the PLO stresses its loyalty to these resolutions and will not establish relations with the Egyptian Government while the latter complies with the Camp David accords. PNC members, have you not passed resolutions calling for a break in relations with Egypt? Well, I have implemented these resolutions and have severed these ties. [applause] I have done nothing. I have made no decisions. I listened to what they said and I implemented their resolution. I did not implement the resolution in full, as that would be difficult and would hurt our brothers sitting here. No, we have done nothing. However, if there is another attack against us, I will not keep silent. [applause]

He [Qaddumi] also referred to the strengthening of relations with the masses of fraternal Egypt, led by their national and progressive forces, in their struggle. I challenge him. We have parties here. I challenge him to persuade any party to oppose its country. This is Egypt. [cheers and applause] We differ and clash here in Egypt but in the end we are all Egyptians. Our country is Egypt and all of us live under its umbrella. We criticize each other when we choose, but in the end we all belong to Egypt.

There is something that hurt me a little. Indeed, it upset me. Some of our Egyptian brothers attending the PNC met with a senior party official in a prominent position. Do not ask me to which country this party belongs. What did he tell them? He said: We will not restore relations with Egypt and we cannot fly our flag next to the Israeli flag. An Egyptian journalist answered him. Our brothers did not want this journalist to attend the meeting. This is a regrettable development that annoyed me very much indeed. The intention was not bad, perhaps, but as an Egyptian I was offended. The journalist answered him, saying: Your flag flies alongside the Israeli flag in more than 90 foreign countries. It flies next to the Israeli flag at international gatherings. This prominent senior party official told them: You must form a national front to oppose the Camp David policy and rid Egypt of it. The Camp David agreement did not solve Egypt's economic problems, as Al-Sadat knew it would not. Get rid of this agreement and take the path our country has followed. Anyone who opposes the national front should be considered a traitor to his country. Leave it to me to deal with our Arab brothers. I will find a solution to your economic troubles. I want to tell this prominent person, without mentioning his country or name: You claim to understand the Arab brothers in the Arab region so well, but we have historical relations with them and we know them better than you do. [applause]

It is not proper for a few Egyptians and their wives to attend a PNC meeting. Why did you go?

Dear brothers and sisters: After this comprehensive review of all aspects of our domestic and foreign position, you can see that our only choice is to proceed on the right course, regardless of the effort, hardship, and sacrifice required. The first pledge I make, confident I will fulfill it with the help of Almighty God and the support of the people, is to commit myself to work day and night, seeking with utmost efforts and resolve to do whatever is necessary to serve the public interest of the Egyptian people, with all their diversity and factions. Everyone who loves his land and country, everyone who seeks to develop his society, and every sincere and honest worker shares this commitment with me, so that Egypt may rise and achieve a decent life, consolidate its pioneering role, make every family secure on its land, and invest its resources to benefit all its sons.

You offered great efforts and work to implement the first 5-year development plan, which paved the way for further achievements and services. In many essential projects, you have done more in the past 5 years than was done in 50. We must not stop; we must move faster. We are in a difficult race with the masses' demands and needs. This is also a race against time. There is no time for meaningless, frenzied talk, and there is no place for one-upmanship, which the masses have shunned after recognizing it as such. There is no place for anyone who seeks to stop our march. There is no excuse for anyone who is indolent toward his duty. Let us ignore slogans that seek to stir up superficial emotions, dragging us into darkness, backwardness, and confusion.

Our course is clear, correct, and bright. We do not conceal facts, make intoxicating promises, or erase any step we make. Our decisions are not made by individuals; rather, our masses participate in making, implementing, and supervising these decisions. The masses' decisions will not be in the interest of one individual at the expense of another, nor of one segment at the expense of another. Our decisions serve everyone's public interests. They are Egyptian decisions for Egypt. No one else will volunteer to build Egypt. The sky will not rain gold or silver. Therefore, we must all move forward together in one procession of collective will and national unity. We have made great strides, but the road is still long. We have laid sound foundations for reconstruction so that it will be right, praiseworthy, and include all our sons without discrimination, according to hard work, loyalty, and effort. Thus, with the power of unity, the will to work, and the pride of accomplishment we can challenge storms and forge our own destiny. If the people want something, destiny will be so. [applause] Our fate is to be both master and servant. Our Egyptianism is our sword and shield. Our sword is loyalty to the homeland, and our shield is work, work, and more work. We will not be frightened by hardship, for we have faith. We will not be intimidated by any tyrannical power, for we are stronger, with our knowledge, work, and faith. We will bow only to Almighty God.

O workers of Egypt, both men and women: You have joined hands and achieved in the first development plan what some people imagined was impossible. Let your arms be stronger as you draw up and implement the second 5-year development plan. We cannot proceed forward from a void. We now know where our feet are before we take a new step. We have learned from experience; therefore, our steps are on the correct path of honest work. Be advocates of love, cohesion, and loyalty. Love is for Egypt and for anyone who contributes for the sake of Egypt. With cohesion, Egypt becomes stronger and its rewards increase for everyone who works for Egypt. Be loyal to honest values, virtues, and principles, and for everyone who offers good to Egypt.

We may differ in our views, but we will not differ over our homeland. We may contend with arguments and views, but we will not quarrel and exchange accusations or stones. Freedom is our torch and will light the road of love, justice, and right. Freedom should not be an axe to destroy the torch; it should do battle in the jungles of oppression and darkness. We can safeguard democracy, for it protects us all. Our construction will rise because it is the home of us all. The flags of democracy will not fall, as they are flags of love, cohesion, and loyalty borne by the hearts of the brave and the arms of the honest. There will be neither reluctance nor backward steps. Forge ahead and do not fear; hurry and do not tarry. Forge ahead to the time of work, as it is the time of glory and progress. Do not hesitate, as this is the only path to progress. Let us all direct pure hearts to God Almighty, whose wisdom and will are above all and whose mercy fills us, so that He may deepen our faith, grant us the ability and strength to do our duty, and guide us on the right path. God will listen and respond. May God guide us all, and may God's blessings and mercy be upon you. [applause]

You know how much the bonus is? It is equivalent to your salary for 20 days, just as you were paid last year. [applause]

Butrus Ghali on PLO Ties, Peace Conference

JN021259 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 May 87

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Uda Tawfiq in Cairo; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tawfiq] Reports from Israel state that Jordan and Israel have agreed on convening an international conference and that an American plan exists, which has been approved by Egypt. In light of what has happened between Egypt and the PLO, has there been any change in Egypt's insistence on Palestinian rights and PLO participation in any peace talks?

[Ghali] The Egyptian position has not changed. It is a firm stand based on principles. Egypt will support the Palestinian people until they attain their national rights and are able to exercise their right to self-determination.

[Tawfiq] Does Egypt still insist that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative and that the PLO is to decide who will represent it in peace negotiations?

[Ghali] There has been no change in Egypt's position regarding the general principles of our diplomacy.

[Tawfiq] No, I mean as far as the peace process is concerned.

[Ghali] Egypt's stand is based on general principles regarding the peace process.

[Tawfiq] Do you expect to contain the crisis between Egypt and the PLO before an international conference takes place or before the conclusion of current efforts to push the peace process ahead?

[Ghali] There have been several crises at various times between Egypt and the PLO and they were all settled peacefully. We hope that will be the case this time as well.

[Tawfiq] Hani al-Hasan told Radio Monte Carlo the PLO will not allow itself to move away from Egypt nor will it allow Egypt to move away from it.

[Ghali] I hope the PLO's ongoing efforts will have positive results for the sake of the PLO, of course, and for the sake of the Palestinian people.

[Tawfiq] Dr Ghali, is it true that Egypt has actually agreed to an American 10-point plan submitted to Israel on convening an international conference?

[Ghali] This report is baseless, or, rather, we have no knowledge of it.

[Tawfiq] If that is so, how can we explain the fact that these reports come only from Israel? Are we to believe this is part of the political conflict between the Labor Party and the Likud?

[Ghali] There is undoubtedly a serious confrontation between the Israeli Labor Party and the Likud, which could lead to new elections there. However, the Egyptian Government's stand is clear in dealing with the existing Israeli Government and in ensuring that Egyptian diplomacy works to get an international conference. After all, we will try to use this conference to break the Palestinian question out of its stalemate, for such a stalemate serves neither the Palestinian people nor peace.

[Tawfiq] Given Egypt's consultations on an international conference and participation in it, can there be a conference without the USSR?

[Ghali] Clearly, the idea of an international conference is based on the participation of both the USSR and the United States and the permanent members of the Security Council.

[Tawfiq] Thus, the current uproar in Israel over Palestinian representation outside the PLO and Egypt's agreement to that is untrue?

[Ghali] In my opinion, such talk is baseless.

Zambian State Minister Ends Visit, Departs

NC010853 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA) — Mrs Mavis Muyanda, Zambian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo today after a 5-day official visit to Egypt, which included a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

During her stay in Cairo, Muyanda held talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on the South African racist regime's aggression against Zambia and the Egyptian people's support for the Zambian people. The discussions also covered the Middle East problem and Egypt's role in solving the Palestinian question.

The Zambian minister of state praised Egypt's vanguard role in backing African liberation movements and helping the African peoples win independence.

Yasir 'Arafat Briefs Leaders on PNC Session

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN011420 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, 'Arafat briefed the president on the results of the recent PNC session in Algiers.

The president reiterated Iraq's firm support for the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, as well as his concern for its unity and effectiveness. The president expressed hope that Yasir 'Arafat and his brothers, the members of the PLO Executive Committee, will succeed in their mission. The Arab situation was examined as well.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was also present.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN021956 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today. They reviewed the results of the recent PNC session in Algiers.

'Aziz praised the positive outcome of the PNC session, which bolstered the Palestinian people's national unity under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Also present were Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister; 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member; the head of the Arab World Department at the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Department; the director of the Arab Liberation Movements Office; and the chief of the PLO office in Baghdad.

'Arafat Leaves Baghdad

JN030738 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad at dawn today. He was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Liberation Movements Office in the RCC; and Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister. Also on hand to bid him farewell were the following comrades: the director and members of the Liberation Movements Office and the chief of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Kuwait on a visit that will last several days. During his stay, 'Arafat will meet with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; and a number of other Kuwaiti officials. He will brief them on the latest Palestinian developments, especially after the convocation of the PNC's 18th session in Algiers. Current Arab affairs will be examined as well.

Military Successes for 30 Apr-3 May Reported

Communique No 2,660

JN011823 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 87

[Communique No 2,660 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious troops inflicted the following additional losses on the despotic Zionist, Khomeyniite clique last night and today:

1. At 0315 today three enemy groups attempted to approach one of our border vantage points in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our heroes confronted and destroyed the bulk of the enemy force, while the rest escaped.

In another area, our units spotted a group of enemy personnel moving in their vehicles. Our men brought the enemy under tank and artillery fire, destroying five vehicles and killing a number of scoundrels.

In other zones in the same sector, our units inflicted the following confirmed losses on the enemy: the destruction of 23 vehicles; the killing of a number of enemy personnel equivalent to an infantry platoon; the destruction of 4 shovels [preceding word in English], a bulldozer, and 13 infantry positions; and the capture of 2 BKC machine guns, 4 Kalashinkov rifles, and an RPG-7 launcher.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships attacked enemy positions and assembly points in the operational areas, inflicting further losses on the Zionist-Khomeyniites in 66 combat sorties. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, six enemy soldiers were killed; three posts were destroyed; several ammunition dumps were blown up; and four RPG-7 lauchers, two Kalashnikov rifles, and two light machine guns were seized.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, four enemy personnel were killed, while one tower and an infantry position were destroyed.

5. Two vehicles and an infantry position were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 May 1987

Iranian Attacks in North Fail

JN020643 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0624 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) — The Iraqi forces in the I Army Corps northern sector continue to wipe out Iranian units, inflicting heavy losses in men and materiel. In a statement to the *Al-Qadisiyah* team in the northern sector today, an Iraqi field commander said that Iraqi troops are continuing the overall destruction of the Iranian forces and their assembly points. He added that fighter planes, helicopter gunships, tanks, and artillery, along with infantry, shock troops, and other units, are taking part in the destruction of the Iranian forces.

The Iraqi field commander said the Iranian regime has lost the bulk of its attacking units after they encountered the highly fortified Iraqi defenses. Therefore, the attempts by Iranian units to pierce those defenses were a complete failure. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,661

JN021715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 87

[Communique No 2,661 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces inflicted further losses on our country's enemies through the following activities last night and today:

1. Enemy units attempted to approach our forward positions in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our victorious troops brought them under fire, wiping out most of the enemy force and compelling its few survivors to flee. Our brave men also dealt the following losses to the unjust Zionist clique in other areas of the same sector: The burning and destruction of 14 assorted vehicles; the destruction of 2 shovels and a grader [preceding words in English]; the destruction of an antiaircraft machine gun; the interdiction of enemy engineering efforts; and the seizure of 5 PKS machine guns, 5 RPG launchers, and 7 Kalashnikov rifles.

2. Our brave helicopter crews carried out 20 combat missions against enemy units, inflicting further losses. Our helicopters then returned safely to base.

3. Our formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra attacked eight enemy groups which tried to approach our units, destroying most of them and forcing the rest to flee. One observation tower and a shovel were destroyed, while an ammunition dump in the same sector was demolished.

4. Two scoundrels were killed and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the sector held by the special I Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One vehicle was burned and its occupants killed, and a machine gun emplacement was destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

6. The Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery, damaging several homes and other property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 May 1987

Communique No 2,662

JN031730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 87

[Communique No 2,662 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces have continued to inflict losses on the Khomeyniite clique, confirming their devastating superiority over the remnants of the aggressors in all theaters of operation. The following are the activities for last night and today:

1. The planes of our giant Air Force staged a lightning raid against the Gelidian camp at 1225 today. Our valiant hawks pinpointed their targets, scored destructive hits, and returned safely to base, leaving their targets rocked by explosions with columns of smoke billowing above. Praise be to God.

2. The crews of our heroic helicopter gunships carried out 46 combat missions against enemy positions and concentrations in the theaters of operation. After delivering effective blows to the Khomeyniites and inflicting further losses on them in men and materiel, our gunships returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. One of our units in the V Army Corps northern sector spotted groups of Iranian enemy soldiers attempting to approach its positions. Our men pounded them with artillery and tank fire, killing 20 scoundrels, wounding several others, and forcing the others to flee.

4. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector managed to inflict the following losses on the Zionist-Khomeyniites: the destruction of seven vehicles; the burning and destruction of two shovels [preceding word in English]; the destruction of four infantry positions, the killing of a number of enemy soldiers; and the capture of four rifles.

5. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded a group of enemy soldiers and vehicles, dealing them additional losses. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our units destroyed an enemy vehicle and several ammunition dumps. It also managed to rout a 9-man enemy patrol.

6. Ten emplacements were destroyed in the VI Army Corps east of the Tigris.

7. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled residential areas in the valiant city of Basra with long-range artillery, damaging a number of homes and other civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 May 1987

King Husayn Not Planning Trip to Cairo

JN031041 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1000 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] King Husayn's visit to Cairo has neither been postponed nor canceled for the simple reason that it was never on the monarch's agenda. Stating this today, an official Jordanian spokesman said that if this trip had been scheduled, Amman would have announced it officially.

Ministers Deny Agreement With Israel on Conference

JN030758 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 May 87 p 25

[Excerpt] Cairo — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, has reiterated his country's firm stand on peace efforts based on such important principles as backing the Palestinian people to enable them to obtain their national rights.

Dr Ghali denied that Egypt had agreed to a new U.S. peace plan and dismissed Israeli media reports that Jordan and Israel had agreed to hold an international conference.

Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib and Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territory affairs, had earlier denied the alleged accord.

On the current crisis between Egypt and the PLO, Ghali said there had been many crises at various points and that all had been resolved peacefully. He expressed hope that this would be the case this time, too. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i Explains Stand on Peace Conference

JN031548 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1500 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Amman, 3 May (PETRA) — Replying to a question from the Jordanian News Agency PETRA on recent foreign and Western media claims concerning Jordan's position toward the proposed international conference [on the Middle East], Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated: As is known, His Majesty King Husayn has made intensified efforts in the past 2 years to obtain the support of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference. The gathering would be called by the UN secretary general and attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the Council's five permanent members.

Al-Rifa'i added: The outcome of this work was the agreement by the states concerned on the need to hold the conference. This occurred when they realized that a peaceful settlement can be achieved only through an international conference, provided those taking part agree that it will convene with the goal of reaching a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; settling all aspects of the Palestinian question, including restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights; and denouncing acts of violence and terrorism.

The prime minister noted: As is also known, Jordan insists that the PLO be invited. Jordan has worked to enable the PLO to participate in the conference as part of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in accordance with the 11 February agreement. However, the talk of agreements and contacts is completely groundless.

Al-Rifa'i continued: In fact, the world is still waiting for the Israeli Government to approve the international conference and to participate in it on the aforementioned bases, which is necessary if the gathering is to be held. After all, there is no point in continuing to prepare for the conference while the Israeli Government rejects the idea of convening it and of participating if it is held.

Foreign Minister on U.S. Stand, Peace Conference

PM021615 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
2 May 87 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Khalid Mahadin in Amman on 22 April, "the eve of the publication of the Jordanian Government statement on the PLO Executive Committee's decision to abrogate the Amman Accord"]

[Text] [Mahadin] Jordan talks about progress in the United States' toward an international conference, but the United States has not said anything new to confirm that such progress has taken place. How do you evaluate Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's trip to the United States, and what success or successes did it achieve?

[Al-Masri] Since President Reagan took office or, more specifically, since George Shultz was appointed to head the State Department, the U.S. position has been to decisively reject the idea of an international conference. In 1984 UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar sent specific questions to the permanent and nonpermanent members of the [UN] Security Council and to all parties concerned in the conflict asking for their views and thoughts on the international conference and the possibility of convening it. The United States replied by rejecting the idea in toto. The UN secretary general's work stopped at this point due to this rejection and the factors involved. However, the United States' attitude began to change, cautiously and slowly, particularly after King Husayn's efforts with all the international parties, and the United States in particular, influenced this stand. With the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the new horizons that accord opened in the search for a peaceful settlement, the U.S. secretary of state and U.S. officials gradually began to abandon their adamant rejection of the idea. They started talking about certain equations and forms although the declared U.S. objective for the conference remained direct negotiations, and its caution persisted due to its reluctance to give a role to the international conference and, by implication, to the Soviet Union. We felt that the United States wanted a U.S. solution to the conflict. Following the recent visit to Washington by a Jordanian delegation under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, some faint but rather important signs began to emerge indicating a U.S. desire to see the international conference convened. Unofficial talks were held with the other permanent members of the Security Council under the UN secretary general's sponsorship. In addition, direct negotiations no longer remained the principal title [ambition] of the conference; even the expression changed and became bilateral talks. At this point, I would like to note that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated more than once in Washington that the progress seen in the United States' attitude is insufficient to make the convocation of an international conference a possibility. We are awaiting developments.

Still more important is the fact that the holding of an international conference has become a motive for regional and nonregional blocs to give an impetus to the peace process. As such, certain Arab countries, Jordan especially, are not alone in actively seeking to convene this conference, while other parties such as the nonaligned bloc and the EEC are doing so as well.

[Mahadin] Many Arab and international parties describe the international conference as imminent, even though Israel's rejectionist attitude is still the same and there has been only a slight change in the U.S. stand, as you said. Do you believe an international conference will be held in the near future?

[Al-Masri] I have already said that if the first meeting of the conference does not take place this year, I cannot predict that it will be held at any time in the future. There is an opportunity to hold the conference this year, after which many factors on the Israeli, U.S., Palestinian, and Arab levels in general will change. I do not want to be pessimistic, but conditions for convening the conference today are more favorable than at any time in the past. Allowing more time to pass will not make conditions any better or more conducive; in fact, they will deteriorate.

[Mahadin] Suppose an international conference is held: Do you expect to come out of it with any results?

[Al-Masri] Perhaps the continuing talk of convening an international conference has generated great expectations in the minds of many people, officials and nonofficials alike. It seems to me that with so much talk about convening a conference, some people, or even many people, have come to believe it is the panacea for all our problems and will resolve all our dilemmas, especially the Palestinian issue.

In fact, convening the conference will be the easiest part, while getting it started and opening the talks and negotiations will be the most difficult. The differences in views, interests, and inclinations between the two parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict are vast, and there will be protracted and difficult negotiations which could break down at any time. All I can say is that Jordan is willing to continue working sincerely within the conference until a total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory and the redemption of that land is achieved. This is in addition to restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. No official should draw a rosy picture of how work inside the conference will be, and we should not expect rapid results from the conference if it is held.

[Mahadin] What are Jordan's alternatives should the international conference not be held or if it fails to have any results?

[Al-Masri] My view has always been and still is that joint Arab action is the alternative to everything happening. Had there been such action, the Palestinians would not have had to wait so long to obtain their rights and the occupied Arab territories would not have remained occupied for the past 20 years. Alternatives must be found in case the conference is not convened or fails. I believe that the convocation of the conference in and of itself will generate a great deal of interaction, which is difficult to predict. The ideal alternative is joint Arab action. In my view, one of the important alternatives that should not be ignored under any circumstances is the strengthening of Jordanian-Palestinian ties.

[Mahadin] A few weeks ago there was talk of holding the postponed Arab summit, but the talk then stopped. Is there anything new regarding the convening of that summit?

[Al-Masri] For more than 3 years we have been talking about this and about new developments requiring an Arab summit. However, it has not been held. I cannot see anything new in this area, despite the fact that today (Wednesday 22 April) I read a statement by [Arab League Secretary General] Chedli Klibi referring to the possibility of an Arab summit after Ramadan. Perhaps he knows something that I do not. However, the Arab summit has apparently been postponed indefinitely. I state this on the basis of practical thinking and not speculation or suppositions.

[Mahadin] Let us move on to Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Egypt as well as Jordan has warned of the consequences of abrogating the Amman accord. The warning was combined with assertions from Jordan and Egypt that such a move would hamper efforts to convene an international conference. Could you clarify this, and what about the United States and Israel, who undermine every attempt to convene it?

[Al-Masri] There are two parties to the international conference: Israel and the Arabs. This is in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council. All must attend if the conference is to open. The United States and Israel stick to the position that the Palestinians cannot send an independent delegation. Israel categorically rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Though it is true that Israel cannot impose such conditions, we cannot impose conditions on it, either, or it will refuse to attend. When the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was signed, existing stands and realities on the international and Arab levels were taken into account. I believe these same stands and realities still exist. I feel that the PLO, despite the abrogation of this accord, is bound by the principles it contains — principles that speak of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, as well as the international conference, a confederation, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian position. If Jordan and the PLO remain officially committed to these principles, I do not think the peace process will be hurt. I am convinced that the Palestinian leadership is also committed to this. As such, I do not expect the cancellation of the accord to affect Jordanian, Palestinian, or other Arab efforts to convene the conference.

[Mahadin] But some people believe the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has ended one phase and launched another. Is it possible to visualize the features of this new stage in Jordanian-Palestinian relations following the cancellation of the accord.

[Al-Masri] It is not easy to predict that now, especially since the PNC is still in session and the formation of the preparatory committee [not further specified] has not been completed. There are suggestions for structural changes, and there is no doubt that such changes will, negatively or positively, affect relations between the PLO and Jordan.

[Mahadin] The Jordanian official spokesman's statement on the abrogation of the Amman accord was low-key; it did not spell out any specific stand toward the cancellation, nor did it contain any expressions of rebuke or anger. Some feel the text of the resolution abrogating the accord incorporated an affirmation of all its points. How do you explain all this?

[Al-Masri] My explanation is that neither party wants the abrogation to be the start of strained relations. There is a desire on both sides to maintain the dialogue and the open horizons. This is something positive and good. I am one of those who believe in the inevitability of and need for Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, not only between the two peoples but between official quarters as well. This rapprochement has been and remains the cornerstone of any peaceful settlement, regardless of whether or not an international conference is held and whether or not it succeeds.

[Mahadin] Let us go back to the visit you and Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i paid to Washington. You held talks with the U.S. secretary of defense. Did the discussions deal with the possibility of the U.S. Administration reconsidering Jordan's earlier requests for arms?

[Al-Masri] At no time during our trip did we cover the question of arms for Jordan. King Husayn had earlier explained, when Congress refused to give us arms, that he would not be the one to initiate such a request. We are still committed to this policy.

[Mahadin] Is there any explanation of why no meeting took place between Zayd al-Rifa'i and President Reagan?

[Al-Masri] The question of meetings is a matter of understanding between the United States and Jordan. Our talks focused on the international conference, and the principal official involved is George Shultz. The question of meeting with President Reagan is always left to the head of state, and that is King Husayn.

[Mahadin] Two invitations have been extended to King Husayn, one from Moscow and the other from Washington. Will King Husayn respond to both?

[Al-Masri] There are indeed two invitations, but no date has been fixed for either trip. King Husayn will be eager to respond to the Soviet invitation as soon as possible.

Premier Karami Resigns; Cites 'Apprehension'

NC041313 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has announced his resignation. After chairing a meeting of the general authority, he spoke of the proposals and speeches made during the 1 May celebrations, and the proposals on neutrality and the civil administration. He said that political and economic pressures have led to apprehension about what is taking place and highlight the impossibility of arriving at any agreed solution.

Replying to a question, Rashid Karami said: After studying the situation, bearing current and future developments in mind, and in the interests of Lebanon, and of taking a course that might get the country out of its difficulties, I have no alternative but to announce my resignation.

Israeli Forces' Attacks, Maneuvers Detailed

1 May Air Strikes

NC011548 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1534 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Israeli air raids reported earlier were resumed at 1730 today. An Israeli military squadron raided targets in Al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and Al-Ashrafiyah three times earlier this evening. At 1640, the enemy's planes bombed targets east of Al-Miyah wa Miyah. At 1655, they resumed their bombing of 'Ayn al-Dulb. At 1705, the enemy planes bombed the Al-Ashrafiyah area and surrounding hills. Nine Skyhawk and Phantom aircraft participated in the three raids, in which Palestinian citizen 'Ali Juma'h was killed and Sa'id Hashim, Ahmad Nawfal, Muhammad Qasim Musa, 'A'ishah 'Awad, and 'Ali al-Dahr were wounded. Ambulances have rushed to the bombed areas to remove the wounded.

PLO Claims 51 Casualties

NC011609 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, May 1 (AFP) — Fourteen Palestinians, including two children, were killed and 37 others were wounded Friday in an Israeli air raid on a Palestinian refugee camp east of here, the Palestine Liberation Organisation said.

An army spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed the attack against what he said were "the headquarters of terrorist organisations" near the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Miyah wa Miyah, east of this southern port-city.

He said guerrillas used the headquarters to plan anti-Israeli attacks. The spokesman said the Israeli warplanes returned safely to their bases.

The PLO said seven civilians, including two children aged under four years of age, and seven guerrillas were killed in the air raid. Twenty-two civilians, most of them women and children, and 15 fighters were wounded.

Correspondents in the region said Israeli planes carried out three sweeps of positions inside Al-Miyah wa Miyah, completely destroying four offices belonging to the PLO's mainstream group Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Another Fatah office in the nearby deserted Christian village of 'Ayn al-Dulb was also destroyed, they said. Earlier reports said the Israeli jets also bombed the Christian areas of Jinsnaya and Al-Qurayyah.

The correspondents said 15 houses were also damaged in the raid that took place at 16:45 P.M. (13:45 GMT).

Anti-aircraft fire was used on the Israeli jets, which used decoy missiles to evade SAM-7 missiles, they added.

Ships, Helicopters Observed

NC021645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] A state of alert and anticipation currently prevails among the people living in the south in the wake of the numerous threatening statements made by the enemy leaders and their increasing acts of aggression and military buildup.

Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the southern coast, less than 3 miles from the shore, for several hours. According to our correspondent in Hasbayya, enemy artillery emplacements on 'Ayn Qinya hill shelled the outskirts of Mimis village for an hour at noon today. Helicopers also flew over Hasbayya, Zaghli, 'Ayn Qinya, Zummariyya, and Shib'a. An Israeli force composed of 10 vehicles crossed the combat lines of Shib'a and carried out a large-scale combing operation in the area. Our correspondent notes that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has visited the positions being manned by his soldiers and their agents in Zaghli, Zummarayya, and Kawkaba. He later met with agent Antoin Ladh in the presence of Israeli troops.

According to some reports, enemy soldiers have defused an explosive device at the entrance to 'Ayn Qinya village. They later carried out a search operation in neighboring towns.

Towns Near 'Security Zone' Hit

NC021721 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, May 2 (AFP) — Two Israeli helicopter gunships opened fire with heavy machine guns Saturday in an area of southern Lebanon controlled by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), police said at this south Lebanon town.

Two Cobra helicopters took part in the 15 minute operation, police said, raking a valley between the villages of Zibqin and Majdal Zun bordering the security zone established by Israel. No details were given of casualties.

The Nepalese contingent of UNIFIL is stationed in the two villages.

According to Israel, five Israeli soldiers were injured and three members of the Moslem Militia Resistance of the Believers killed during a clash in this sector on March 28. [passage omitted]

2 Villages Strafed

NC031222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1203 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Israeli aircraft, especially helicopters, resumed their flights of reconnaissance and aggression today, with helicopters directing heavy machine gun fire at the townships of Jba' and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. In addition, an Israeli enemy armored force crossed the Shab'ah axis today and raked the area with gunfire.

According to reports from the south, a member of agent Lahd's militia was killed and three others were wounded when their car hit a mine on the road to Hafariyah.

Syrian Patrol Fired on in West Beirut

NC021937 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] According to security sources in West Beirut, a Syrian patrol came under gunfire in the Tallat al-Khayyat area just after 2000 today. One Syrian soldier was injured in the shooting. The Syrian forces and members of the Internal Security Forces immediately established checkpoints in Mar Ilyas, Al-Sana'i, and Corniche al-Mazra'ah to check cars and the identity cards of their drivers.

Birri Addresses May Day Rally in West Beirut

NC011850 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] Lebanon and the world celebrated May Day today. To mark this important occasion, several political and labor rallies were held in various parts of Lebanon. One of the more prominent rallies was organized by the Amal Movement at the Concorde Cinema [in West Beirut]. [passage omitted]

Lawyer Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement and minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, addressed the rally. He emphasized that true detente means reaching an understanding on the fate of the south and then supporting it on the basis of a belief in a united Lebanon. It also means a declared war against all cantons and divisions. Lebanon is heading toward an economic catastrophe, he stated, and the only way to avoid this is to achieve reconciliation and a true and comprehensive peace. The basis for such a reconciliation, he stressed, is commitment to the principle of resistance, something which is a healthy cure for any weak solution. He added that justice is a necessary condition for getting out of the present situation.

Minister Birri held the nationalist forces responsible for the current state of affairs. He called for eliminating all the forces that have become fragmented. He affirmed: There can be no real nationalist front until the operations launched from the Kafr Falus front to Batir become equal to to those along the Sujud-al-Naqurah front.

Minister Birri announced his readiness to attend a cabinet session under President Amin al-Jumayyil in only one case; namely, if it is held in Damascus and if it meets as a dialogue committee. He warned: Either there must be an imminent reconciliation before the people die of hunger or there must be a rejection of a renewed presidential term. He asserted that a real reconciliation is required before presidential elections. He noted that separating the economy from politics is like separating the body from the soul.

Minister Birri warned that it is forbidden to ration flour and gas in the nationalist areas. Such commodities must be allowed into these areas quickly and without delay. Otherwise, not one cent will leave the central bank.

Commenting on the current situation along the combat lines, Minister Birri said: We will not be the aggressors. However, we have the right of self-defense, for we cannot abandon our people.

In an effort to confront the economic crisis, Minister Birri called for organizing licensed popular societies throughout Lebanon. Together they could then work to deal with inflation, control prices and commodities, and import the more consumable products to sell at cost price. He also called for enacting a new labor union law that would truly reflect the workers' needs and cancel chaotic elections by establishing a higher labor committee. This in turn would transform trade unions into a truly representative body.

In conclusion, Minister Birri declared: O workers, unite. Be one sect: namely, a united Lebanon.

'Advanced' Soviet Arms Reportedly Sent to Damascus

JN031831 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 May 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned from a Lebanese political source close to the Syrian capital that shipments of advanced Soviet weapons, including T-72 tanks and surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles arrived in Damascus in the past few days. The source said the arms shipments followed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit to Moscow and the increasing Israeli military concentrations in parts of western Al-Biqa', opposite Syrian positions on the Al-Biqa' Plain.

Al-Asad Receives PNSF Envoys, Stresses Support

JN032037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] At 1130 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation from the PNSF that included PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member; Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], secretary of the Provisional Command of the Fatah Uprising Movement; 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards — the Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Muhammad Khalifah, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards — the Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, assistant secretary of the Provisional Command of the Fatah Uprising Movement; Talal Naji, member of the PFLP-GC Political Bureau; Mahmud Abu Al-Nayif, member of the Palestinian Popular Front Political Bureau; and 'Umar al-Shihabi, member of the PFLP-GC Political Bureau. The talks dealt with developments in the Arab world, with emphasis on Palestinian affairs.

The president stressed Syria's continued support for the PNSF, its policy of hostility to imperialism and Zionism, its fight against defeatist plans of surrender, and its efforts to entrench the Palestinian national course loyal to liberating the land and restoring rights.

Oil Minister Back From Tehran; 10-Year Protocol Set

JN021153 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Dr Ghazi al-Durubi, minister of oil and mineral wealth, returned to Damascus last night after a visit of several days to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Al-Durubi said his talks with senior Iranian officials produced complete accord on all matters regarding oil cooperation and exchange of expertise.

Agreement was also reached on renewing the oil cooperation protocol which the two states signed in 1983 for another 10 years. Under its terms, light Iranian crude will be imported to meet the needs of Syrian oil refineries.

TISHRIN Condemns Shamir-Peres 'Peace Game'

JN031357 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (SANA) — The newspaper *Tishrin* has affirmed that the peace game being played by both Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres has the long-term goal of imposing an Israeli peace on the Arabs, dealing separately with each Arab state, and obtaining each Arab country's approval of not only the legitimacy of the Israeli presence in Palestine, but also of world Jewish rights to the Promised Land and Greater Israel, with its known boundaries and in accordance with Zionist theory.

In a comment today, the paper adds: This is exactly what the Zionist leadership is seeking in the current phase by relying on the unlimited support of the U.S. Administration. This backing will take its ugliest form during President Reagan's planned visit to Israel in 1988 to participate in celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Zionist state's establishment.

The paper explains that attempts to market the Zionist plan through a possible international conference held according to Israeli dictates still faces a solid Arab will. This will frustrated the Camp David accords and toppled their small link, once known as the 17 May agreement in Lebanon, as well as a series of similar attempts.

The paper affirms that the latest Zionist proposals are a new and serious conspiracy designed to undermine Arab rights, give a good conduct medal to the Israeli aggressors, and recognize Israel's right to loot Arab lands and build settlements there. *Tishrin* calls on the Arab nation to close ranks, foil this latest scheme, and prevent the cancer of Camp David from spreading in the Arab body.

Concluding its comment, *Tishrin* notes: For its part, Syria will spare no effort to defend the Arab cause and destroy the new conspiracy. Just as Syria fought the original Camp David, it will combat its branches and will not permit this cancer to reappear.

Palestine Broadcast on Mubarak's May Day Speech

JN022014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 87

[From the Palestine broadcast's "With the Events" program]

[Text] In his May Day speech, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak reiterated his refusal to cancel the Camp David accords. He claimed that their abrogation would mean a declaration of war and that any retreat from them would cause other countries to lose confidence in any agreement with Egypt. President Mubarak went beyond this. He threatened Palestinian students in Egypt which, as he said, number 2,665. He said he would take revenge on them if Palestinian criticism against the policy of Egypt's ruling regime, which is chained to the Camp David accords, continues.

Mubarak's justification for standing by the Camp David agreements reminds us of the man who was captured by pirates and sold as a slave. He agreed to remain a slave and did not try to end his servitude so as to avoid his master's revenge and not violate the sales agreement between the pirates and his new master. Mubarak has accepted eternal slavery by signing an agreement he believes opposes Egypt's interests.

If we consider Mubarak's threats against the Palestinian students in Egypt, as well as his justification for continuing with the Camp David accords, we can ask: Why does he harshly threaten them and flex his muscles before them if he fears war with the Zionist enemy as a result of cancelling the accords? He should have flexed his muscles in front of Israel, not against those who oppose Camp David. Fear and courage do not meet in one person. Instead of expressing fear of the enemy, he should have searched for other words to save face among those whose land has been seized by the enemy and who have been made homeless by him. He should not have threatened the victims of the Zionist enemy. This fear has but one cause: a desire to satisfy the enemy. He not only fears the enemy, but submits to him as well.

This is another problem. Neither fear nor submission should be characteristics of the man who rules Arab Egypt and its great people. He who rules Egypt and its noble people should be a strong, free master in his homeland, tenacious in confronting his enemies, and generous to his guests. Every word Mubarak said in his recent speech ran counter to these traits.

AL-BA'TH Says Door 'Still Open' to Strugglers

JN040712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Strength of Arab Struggle," *Al-Ba'th* writes: The brutal campaign against our nation is not new. It has continued to undermine the policy of steadfastness and confrontation nourished by Arab Syria under the historic leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. A quick review of history shows that the carrot and stick policy has been used in this campaign under circumstances which our nation's enemies considered conducive to their goal of controlling the region. Thus, it was no surprise to see those enemies score some success by splitting the Arab ranks after the capitulation of the assassinated Al-Sadat.

Al-Ba'th continues: When leader Al-Asad stresses Syria's continued support for all fighters defending Arab dignity, he is in fact embodying the unshakable Arab will and invincible Arab strength, which reject all temptations regardless of pressure. The door was and remains open to all strugglers. Al-Asad's Syria will continue to back all those who want to join the forces resisting the enemy and the growing imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Likud Rejects U.S. Proposal on Conference

TA021915 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] So far no meeting has been arranged between the prime minister and vice prime minister to discuss the framework agreement submitted by the United States for direct negotiations with Jordan by way of an international opening. Yesterday afternoon the Likud ministers vigorously rejected the U.S. proposal. People in the Alignment are today saying that the prime minister did not brief the Likud ministers on the facts, which indicate that progress can be made toward direct negotiations with Jordan. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren is here in the studio:

[Goren] Yesterday afternoon for the first time the prime minister presented the Pickering paper, the U.S. framework agreement for direct negotiations with Jordan through an international opening, to the Likud ministers. As could have been expected, the Likud ministers sharply rejected the proposal. The proposal as it stands, the Likud says, is just sand thrown into the eyes and contains no answers to such basic questions as PLO participation; Soviet and Chinese participation; and, in particular, whether there really is talk of direct negotiations, or of an international conference in which it will be the superpowers that will dictate the form of the negotiations. Today people in the Alignment are saying that Yitzhaq Shamir is concealing information from the Likud ministers, information that provides answers to these questions. He knows as well as we do, people in the Alignment are saying, that the talk is of direct negotiations and a brief international opening and he knows that no Palestinian representative will take part in negotiations without Israel's agreement.

The Alignment says the prime minister will now try to cause a deliberate delay, but Shim'on Peres does not intend to be dragged after him; he is likely to bring the Pickering paper to the Cabinet for discussion, perhaps even this week. People in the Likud are saying that Peres may have answers that will dispel the mist surrounding the document, but there are no answers in the paper itself to the issues that are worrying us, nor has the prime minister received any information that could reassure the Likud. Until we know just how the negotiations with Jordan are to be conducted, there is nothing to talk about, and even if Shim'on Peres does bring the proposal to the Cabinet, it is clear that the Cabinet will demand precise answers from him to all the questions, which will take longer than one meeting.

As of this evening, both parties are fortifying themselves in their positions and waiting until after Independence Day for the political moment of truth, which, in the view of both sides, bears with it the chance of a political crisis and early elections.

Peres Disappointed Over U.S. 'Ambiguity'

TA031055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 87 pp 1, 7

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Over the last few days, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peres has been heard to voice disappointment with the ambiguity of the U.S. position on the international conference. While he expected an unequivocal announcement for support from Washington in the memorandum of understanding, Secretary of State George Shultz has shied away from doing this after he heard about Shamir's reservations to it from Minister Moshe Arens.

Peres' associates have said that he is determined to bring the peace plan, which has garnered the support of Jordan, Egypt, and the United States, to the Cabinet for a decision as soon as possible.

Shamir and Peres will probably confer early on Tuesday for an initial clarification meeting since Shamir's return from his French tour. They will discuss the crisis.

Peres wishes to bring the document to the Cabinet plenum and the Inner Cabinet as early as possible. Yet Shamir is interested in "winning time" in order to present points of weakness in the plan, which he plans to do as he discusses each of them with Peres in these clarification talks.

"The United States and Jordan Support the Document" [subhead]

Last night, Alignment ministers said: "The United States backs the document submitted to the prime minister and has furthermore provided him with guarantees on all the issues over which he expressed his reservations. [no end quotation marks as published]

They believe that it is already known that, despite the harmful leaks, Jordan, like the United States, also supports the document, and the two countries are currently awaiting an Israeli Government decision to announce their consent publicly.

It is said in the Alignment that the denials from Jordan were to be expected, but that in fact King Husayn's view and his agreement to enter into direct negotiations following the opening of the international conference have remained unchanged.

The memorandum of understanding reflects the understanding reached with him that only the bodies that recognize UN Resolution 242 and eschew terrorism will be allowed to participate in the conference.

The PLO's refusal to accept these conditions in fact guarantees that it will not be a partner to the political process. [passage omitted]

Arens Discusses 'Surprise' Visit To U.S.

TA030936 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 87 p 4

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Arens wants direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan to be conducted under the best possible circumstances, and he does not want any of the major powers save the U.S., to be in any way involved in the process.

A day or so after his return from a surprise trip to Washington, when the row between his Likud party and the Alignment was rising to a crescendo, Arens left this reporter with the impression that he had given the U.S. secretary of state a more accurate picture of the Israeli line-up, than George Shultz had got from Vice Premier Shim'on Peres.

Arens talks to the press more guardedly than most Israeli politicians, and he is more concerned than many politicians about being misquoted.

He admits that his decision to accept an invitation to address an Israel Bonds gathering in the U.S. was a snap decision taken after the weekly cabinet session, which meant that his cabinet colleagues were asked to approve his trip in a telephone poll. His cabinet colleagues, in the Alignment at least, were not told that Arens would be meeting Shultz.o

"I thought it was a good idea to exchange views with my friend Shultz and tell him the feeling in Israel about the idea of an international conference on the Middle East peace process," Arens said. "Prime Minister Shamir also thought it was a good idea to talk to Shultz. We didn't consult anybody else."

Arens's implication, although he did not say so explicitly, was that Peres had misled the U.S. Administration into thinking he could swing a Cabinet majority for his procedural proposals on the peace process, and that he put Shultz straight on this.

While he does not assume that the U.S. will now put a freeze on its involvement in Middle East comings-and-goings, he stresses that Shultz will not take the lead and that the U.S. will not try to set the tone.

"The premise in Washington is that the U.S. should render support to Israeli policies. That does not envisage any pressure on Israel.

"I believe that the U.S. will cease to pursue the idea of an international conference entirely, if it becomes clear that the Israeli Cabinet opposes an international conference," he predicted.

Arens and Shultz see eye-to-eye about the need to keep the Soviet Union out of the Middle East peace process.

"Even if the international conference idea boiled down to window dressing, I would oppose it," Arens said. "The Soviet Union would at once don the mantle of protector of the PLO. That would compel Israel to adopt a rejectionist position and perhaps even walk out."

Arens rejects UN auspices in any form, including mailing out the invitations to an international conference. He defines the UN, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain as all "hostile" to Israel.

He thinks it pointless for the Likud and the Alignment to present the issue of the electorate.

"Knesset elections are due 18 months from now. Assuming there would be a Knesset majority for early elections, they would take place six months from now. So in real terms the elections would be advanced a mere 12 months. Yet it could take that time to get an international conference organized," he said.

"I don't understand what Peres is talking about when he claims there is an opportunity in the Middle East which must be seized at once and not missed. Anybody who claims that a window of opportunity will be opened in the coming three months and then closed shut, is flying in the face of reality," he said.

"I do hope that King Husayn of Jordan is getting himself into shape to negotiate, after 20 years," Arens added. "The king has made progress in that time, but his progress has been glacial."

Arens holds that the string of precedents cited by Peres to justify an international conference are irrelevant to the present situation.

"Peres should have asked for cabinet approval months ago, and by not doing so, he has brought us closer to anarchy. he has impaired the accepted functions of government. If he does not cease, I would hesitate to speculate what the Likud would do," Arens said carefully.

"Peres must bring his case to the Cabinet at once, before going to the U.S. in May, as he intended," Arens insisted. "That is the only way to ensure that the government functions according to the laws and procedures of the State of Israel."

DAVAR Summarizes Conference Developments

TA031029 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Aliza Wallach and Yosi Melman]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, has been notified of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' readiness to undertake, in writing, that it will not participate in the international conference if the Soviet Union does not renew its diplomatic relations with Israel and refuses to allow Jews to leave it. This was reported to DAVAR by senior sources.

Shultz is also ready to furnish Peres with the written undertaking that, if the negotiations between Jordan and Israel are deadlocked and Israel is forced to leave the negotiating table, the United States will follow suit.

Minister Arens' visit to Washington and the adamant objection of the Likud ministers to the document of understanding with Husayn have shown the United States clearly that Peres stands no chance of convincing those Inner Cabinet ministers who are not members of his own party to accept his notion and that the idea of the international conference could lead to elections.

Alignment ministers, too, believe that the Likud ministers' stubborn opposition to any confirmation of the Pickering document indicates that the process of promoting peace with Jordan is a subject over which the positions of the Likud and the Alignment cannot be reconciled, so that there is no alternative but to disband the national unity government. Likud ministers, on the other hand, decided in their meeting on Friday that their oposition to the idea of the international conference notwithstanding, every effort will be made to prevent early elections.

The agreement between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and King Husayn was reached during their latest meeting in London, and it includes three parts, two of which are open and one classified at Jordan's request. The confidential part includes the specifics of the direct negotiations as well as Jordan's consent that the conference be devoid of power to force things.

All the details of the confidential portion of the agreement will be given as a Jordanian pledge to the United States, which will in turn convey them to Israel.

The Likud ministers believe that Israel cannot adopt an agreement whose open clauses do not specify that the international conference will serve merely as an opening or one that fails to set the time framework for the next phases of the direct negotiations. According to the prime minister's report to his fellow Likud Cabinet ministers, President Mitterrand was surprised to hear Shamir explain that the international conference's job will be limited to an opening ceremony only.

In his meeting with the prime minister, the U.S. ambassador to Israel reported on the agreement reached between Husayn and Peres, which requires Cabinet approval, and noted that the United States is prepared to present the agreement as a U.S. proposal, if that would make the process of its acceptance by the Cabinet easier.

It has been reported that Shamir believes that the paper submitted by the United States is insufficient and conflicts with basic Israeli positions.

Although no meeting has yet been set for them, associates of both the prime minister and the vice prime minister believe that they will probably meet on Tuesday, after Independence Day, to discuss the new crisis against the backdrop of contacts with Jordan.

Shim'on Peres told *Davar* that he will present his proposal to the Inner Cabinet "at the next meeting on Wednesday, or the following week." Associates of the foreign minister have expressed the fear that the prime minister and the Likud ministers might adopt a "filibuster" tactic and try to prevent Shim'on Peres' proposal on the matter from being accepted.

They cited as an example the Likud ministers' conduct in the Inner Cabinet on the Tabah arbitration, which was dragged out for more than 18 months, due to their demand that changes be introduced into it.

A senior Foreign Ministry official told *Davar* that, in the contacts with Jordan, it has been agreed that the negotiating delegation will be headed by the foreign minister, as was the case in the first conference after the Yom Kippur war, which was held in Geneva. This conclusion, believes that official, will permit Shim'on Peres to conduct the talks.

Shamir Will Try To Persuade the National Religious Party [subhead]

If the foreign minister thought he could persuade Likud ministers to support the idea of the international conference, he realized at the end of the week that there is no such chance. The two ministers who, together with the Labor Party ministers, supported withdrawal from Lebanon — David Levi and Gid'on Pat — have expressed their unequivocal view against the international conference. Gid'on Pat had already made it clear to Peres some time ago that the idea of the conference will unite the Likud ranks.

Peres Holding 'Authoritative Document' on Talks

TA031155 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 May 87 p 5

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Ilan Kfir, date and place not given]

[Excerpt][Kfir] Mr Peres, what do you have in your hands today that you did not have 1 or 2 months ago?

[Peres] We have an understanding with King Husayn and the Americans to hold direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan under the auspices of an international conference which will be an opening. We are not working for a conference. According to the agreement, direct negotiations between us and Jordan will open following the international opening ceremony. What is there to fear here? Perhaps it is not a coincidence that the people who were against the peace agreement with Egypt, against the evacuation of the IDF from Lebanon, and against the Tabah agreement, are now against the chances for peace with Jordan. These are the same people with the same old arguments.

[Kfir] Nevertheless, what is the ace you are holding, which everybody is talking about?

[Peres] Today I possess an authoritative declaration that there is a possibility for direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will not have PLO people.

[Kfir] The prime minister and Likud members are warning that your moves are leading to early elections, that they are ruining the national unity government, sowing discord within the nation and harming the economic stability.

[Peres] If the Likud is so concerned, let it agree to the continuation of the peace process. We will then be preventing the need for early elections, and the national unity government will continue functioning. We began the peace process 2 years ago, but they have unexpectedly changed the course the government under me took toward peace. Let us suppose that they are right in their apprehension about what is expected to take place in the country during an election campaign. All the more reason for them to allow the peace process to continue. I am not so sure that the leaders of the Likud are such great experts about elections or that they understand the people that well. It is not necessary for an election campaign to reach the heights of demagoguery and financial waste. There are democratic countries who hold a 3 or 4 week long, civilized election campaign on a certain issue, and then there is no economic damage done. England is such an example.

[Kfir] Another claim is that you have no guarantees from Husayn for direct negotiations.

[Peres] This will become clear. If I have no guarantees what is the Likud so afraid about?

[Kfir] Will you, before a Cabinet decision, try to convince the prime minister and Likud ministers to support the process?

[Peres] I constantly talk with the prime minister, and I am also holding talks with other Likud ministers. I am not certain the internal situation within the Likud will enable them to do what some of them did regarding essential issues such as the evacuation of the IDF from Lebanon, the Tabah agreement, and the economic plan. We must keep in mind that most of the Likud ministers were against these moves, including Mr Ari'el Sharon.

[Kfir] Will you bring this issue for Cabinet decision soon?

[Peres] Certainly.

[Kfir] Did you have prior knowledge about Arens' intention to meet with Shultz?

[Peres] No. To date I have not been briefed, just as I have not received a copy of the message sent by President Reagan to Shamir.

[Kfir] There were claims that you, as prime minister, did not hurry to brief your foreign minister about your meetings, messages, etc.

[Peres] These are all lies, then and now.

[Kfir] The Likud claims there is no American document in the issue of the negotiations with Jordan, and that Ambassador Pickering in fact conveyed to Shamir a report on the Peres document.

[Peres] There is nothing I can do if this is what the Likud claims. If it is as simple as that then let Shamir pass on his own political document to Washington and have Shultz sign it. Believe me it is not as simple as that. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Nothing Heard on Direct Negotiations

TA031117 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 87 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Refa'el Mann, in Jerusalem "on the eve of Shamir's departure to Paris"]

[Excerpt] [Mann] Mr Prime Minister, on the basis of your information, is King Husayn really ready to enter direct negotiations following the opening of an international conference?

[Shamir] I have not spoken with him and cannot answer you. In any event, Husayn's emphasis is on his desire for a conference. The recent public statements came from Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al- Rifa'i, who said that Jordan does not agree that the conference will only serve as a cover for direct negotiations. To date we have not heard a different version from Jordan.

[Mann] Does not the document presented to you include an explicit agreement to hold direct negotiations?

[Shamir] I received some sort of a draft, which, by the way, has no signature on it. One also has to take into consideration what we are hearing: In France, as well, nobody knows that there is a belief that the conference will only serve as a ceremonial opening and that later the negotiations will proceed in committees.

From the Soviet Union we have just heard, following Al-Asad's visit there, that it insists on a conference with full authority. We have not heard about a willingness to hold direct negotiations from any factor which is supposed to participate in the conference, which I hope will not take place.

[Mann] Do you not receive the impression that George Shultz, who was a great sceptic regarding the conference, now believes that it is possible to reach direct negotiations through it?

[Shamir] It is hard to withstand pressures coming from Israel. The United States was against a conference for two main reasons: It doubted the advantage of bringing the Soviets into the process, and it also took into consideration Israel's firm opposition, which it understood. Now, when part of Israel is willing to accept the conference, a thing we could not conceive of previously, it is hard to demand of foreigners to be more Israeli than the Israelis. When people in the world are saying that we now have an important opportunity, they are referring to the change in Israel's position.

[Mann] Do the differences between the Likud and the Alignment justify early elections?

[Shamir] Nothing justifies early elections. If somebody is concerned about the country's interests, about its economy, then he has to do everything possible to prevent, or at least postpone, the elections. The desire for elections, as expressed in the last few days, is independent of anything else. The conference is only an excuse and an incentive for this desire.

[Mann] Can we not overcome some of the fears through prior and close coordination with the Americans, to ensure that if anything goes wrong in the conference the United States will leave the negotiating table together with us?

[Shamir] It is hard to count on such a possibility. I know how difficult it is for a country to make a decision in such cases, after it has already made an unequivocal decision to participate in the process.

[Mann] Do you intend to examine whether it is possible to implement the plan presented by Peres in order to find out if it is really possible to arrive at direct negotiations through it?

[Shamir] There are many things which must be clarified. The whole idea of the conference does not depend only on the will of Jordan and Israel. There are other elements which have to be examined. If there is no Soviet agreement then the Arabs, including Jordan, will immediately change their position, they will not proceed without the Soviet Union. They explicitly say that they need the Soviet Union because of its anti-Israeli stand. If the Soviet Union does not participate there can be no conference.

I do not understand what is the rush. All these things have to be examined. Whose proposal is this? In whose name? It is too early to make a decision now, many more clarifications have to be made with many elements. President Mitterrand also told me that it will probably take a long time before the details are worked out. He also realizes that Israel will not proceed without all the conditions being clear. I therefore fail to realize what is the purpose of this wild dash.

[Mann] In light of the recent controversy, do you believe that the government is reaching the end of its rope?

[Shamir] I do not want to state something I would not like to come true. However, we must check and see what happens. I suggest that we all remain calm and not rush into things.

[Mann] Are you updated about all the contacts Peres is holding regarding the peace process?

[Shamir] I assume that I know what is happening.

[Mann] But nevertheless you do not share Peres' opinion?

[Shamir] The differences are in our attitudes.[passage omitted]

Likud Sees No Basis for Threat to Government

TA011319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Likud ministers persist in their opposition to the notion of an international conference. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that, after a 2-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, the Likud ministers persist in lashing out at the vice prime minister who, according to them, is not only misleading the prime minister by not briefing him but also is misleading various world personalities involved in the peace process in the Middle East.

In addition to the harsh words used in connection with Mr Peres, the assessment was voiced at the meeting that ultimately the foreign minister might wake up and realize that the way has not yet been paved for summoning an international conference and that therefore there is no basis for threatening the continued existence of the national unity government.

Eban Subcommittee To Debate Draft Report

TA030447 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Abba Eban, will on Wednesday submit to the secret services subcommittee a draft conclusion for the subcommittee investigation into the Pollard scandal. The draft will be based on the testimonies of politicians and officials who appeared before the subcommittee, and the views expressed by each of the seven members after each stage of the investigation. Back to our Knesset reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Katzenell] Abba Eban's draft conclusion will be a synthesis of the views expressed by the seven subcommittee members on each of the topics dealt with throughout this intensive investigation of the Pollard affair. The committee will then have to discuss the draft, and, if there are disagreements, changes may be made. Among the differences which have appeared so far, two of the Labor Party members — Simcha Dinitz and Mikha Harish — say the bulk of the responsibility for the Pollard scandal lies with the foremost spymaster, Rafi Eytan, who was in charge of the Scientific Relations Bureau, the agency that recruited and operated Jonathan Pollard. The three Likud members lay most of the responsibility with the political echelon, in particular Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Two of the Likud members, David Magen and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, maintain that the former defense minister, Moshe Arens, is completely in the clear. On one aspect Magen disagrees with his Likud colleague Ehud Olmert. Magen says most of the damage was done at the outset, when Pollard was recruited and operated. Olmert argues that the real foul-up happened after Pollard was discovered.

The three Likud members are not inclined to let their party leader Yitzhaq Shamir off scot-free. They criticize him for failing to put a stop to the operation of Jonathan Pollard after he, Shamir, became prime minister.

The discussion of Abba Eban's draft, beginning Wednesday, will undoubtedly be the most crucial part of the investigation, but a committee source told me in confidence that the gulf between the Likud and Labor positions is not so wide as to make Eban's task impossible.

Government Economists Recommend End to Lavi

TA291240 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
29 apr 87 pp A1, A2

[Report by Shraga Meckel]

[Text] The continuation of the Lavi project will cost about $1.7 billion more than the alternative — the purchase of U.S.-made

F-16's — if it is decided to produce 300 planes. This was determined by a study done by Finance Ministry economists. In the opinion of Finance Ministry officials, the study clearly indicates that the Lavi project should be canceled as the resulting savings for the economy would be very large and could serve for the development of other projects.

According to the calculations continued development and production of 150 Lavi planes will cost more than $3.5 billion. In contrast, procurement of 150 F-16 planes will cost $2.2 billion, $1.3 billion or 60 percent less. The production of 300 Lavi aircraft will cost $4.87 billion, while the purchase of 300 F-16's will cost $3.18 billion, a gap of 53 percent.

According to assessments by the Finance Ministry, the Lavi project should be stopped also from the employment point of view. Most of the 4,500 workers employed in the project today deal with development. If the project continues, it will move into the stage of production within several years, and then the development workers will find themselves out of this work anyway. Canceling the Lavi, on the other hand, will free resources for other projects in which these workers can be absorbed.

Senior economic elements estimate that despite the clear gap in favor of the F-16, a Cabinet majority is emerging in favor of continuing this project.

IDF Stops Tank Purchases, Equips With Merkavas

TA010839 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 1 May 87 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] The IDF has completely stopped buying tanks abroad and is equipping itself only with the local Merkava tanks.

The Israeli tank is undergoing new development. Some of the tank corps units already have the tank with the additions, which are meant to give the soldiers using it better protection.

An analysis of the tank performance in the Lebanon war has shown that the Merkava has an advantage over the tanks of other armies. According to all the criteria of the analysis, the Merkava is one of the best tanks of the world. Among other things checked were the survivability chances of the crew in case of a hit or a fire. In some areas the Merkava received much better results than other tanks, this on top of other qualities characterizing the Merkava — maneuverability, speed, fire power, etc.

One of the advantages of developing an Israeli tank is that modern technology, such as laser, electronics and electro-optic technologies, is featured in Israel.

It should be noted that the Merkava industry has enabled the refurbishing of hundreds of old tanks and self-propelled guns, which would have been lost for the IDF otherwise. There was also a development of advanced weapons systems for the IDF to meet the needs of the Merkava. Some of these systems were also used in other IDF vehicles and weapons. Local manufacture of spareparts has also increased to meet the needs of the Merkava. These technologies and developments increased the exports of various systems and products by dozens of millions dollars annually.

The producers of the Merkava note that all the economic calculations regarding the economic viability of the Merkava were done before the production stage began. The development stage lasted 9 years, a much shorter period then for other tanks in the world. This project so far has cost much less than other tanks.

Today all the parts of the tank, except for the engine, are manufactured in Israel, and the added value is very high, reaching approximately 64 percent.

Al-Asad, Saddam Husayn Said To Meet in Jordan

TA041109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Jordanian information minister has denied reports that the Syrian and Iraqi presidents held their first meeting in 8 years in Jordan. According to the report published by *The Washington Post*, the meeting was held under the auspices of King Husayn. The newspaper reports this, citing Israeli sources.

Newsweek has published a similar report, claiming that Minister 'Ezer Weizman has confirmed the meeting between President Hafiz al- Asad and President Saddam Husayn with the participation of King Husayn.

In Israel, a security source has confirmed to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the meeting between Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn indeed took place in Jordan late last week. This is why Husayn canceled his planned visit to Luxor, Egypt.

Foreign Ministry's Tamir on Far East Tour

TA031014 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
3 May 87 p 5

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Two days ago Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir left for a tour of the Far East and Asia, where he will hold meetings on political and economic issues. He will visit Japan, ROK, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Singapore.

A few weeks ago, Tamir met with the head of the PRC UN delegation.

Dr Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general, who was scheduled to depart on a tour of several Scandinavian countries in 2 days, has decided to postpone his visit in light of the tension over the international conference.

ALGERIA

King Fahd Arrives for Meeting With Bendjedid

LD032049 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpt] As part of his continuous and intensive efforts to bring together the Arab brothers and unite their views in the interests of this nation's causes, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, arrived, thank God, this evening, Sunday, 3 May 1987, at Oran Airport in Algeria. He is to meet with his brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Democratic People's Republic. [passage omitted]

Meets With Bendjedid

LD041423 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 4 May 87

[Excerpt] Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is still in Algeria. He is in Oran this morning, to be more specific, where he met President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday. According to the Saudi official news agency, the discussions are part of the continuing intensive efforts to gather the Arab brothers together and bring the different points of view closer to serve the interests of the Arab nation.

The interests of the Arab nation, as well as the evolution of the situation in the Maghreb, were certainly at the center of the telephone call between President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

LIBYA

PLO's Al-Wazir, DFLP's Hawatimah Arrive 3 May

LD032115 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Brothers Khalil al-Wazir, or Abu Jihad, member of the FatahCentral Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah stressed that his trip to the Great Jamahiriyah comes as the Great Jamahiriyah's efforts, through the pan-Arab initiatives of the brother leader of the revolution, continue to take on greater authority. This work continued through the talks in Tripoli under the auspices of the brother leader of the revolution, and through the unifying document that those meetings produced.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent at Tripoli International Airport, Brother Nayif Hawatimah emphasized that the Great Jamahiriyah's efforts and the personal work of the brother leader played a very large role in the marvelous outcome of the Algiers PNC session. Brother Khalil al-Wazir praised the Great Jamahiriyah's work, as well as that of the brother leader, which together brought positive results to the PNC during its latest meeting in Algiers. Speaking to the JANA correspondent, he said the PNC session was a gift to our Palestinian people and to our Arab nation, and that it is a step of responsibility and commitment toward the coming stage in both the Palestinian and pan-Arab fields, in which all Arab resources will be mobilized to face the on the Arab nation.

Hawatimah Previews Talks

JN031723 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Tripoli today at the invitation of the Libyan command. In a statement, he said his talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will focus on the appropriate ways of adopting a unified stand to confront the counterattack that Washington, Tel Aviv, Egypt, Morocco, and Jordan have launched to pressure the PLO now that it has achieved national unity.

Statement on Australian Stand on Pacific Issued

LD031929 Tripoli JANA in English
1820 GMT 3 May 87

["Statement of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau on the Australian Stance Towards Libya's Presence in the Pacific" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, May 3 *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau held its ordinary meeting today, 3 May 87 and discussed items on its agenda, amongst them the statements made by the prime minister and foreign minister of Australia on the Libyan Arab presence in the South Pacific.

The People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau would like, on this occasion, to refer to the statements it has already issued in this respect and reiterates that the Libyan presence is always aimed in this region or others in the world to establish relations with various countries and peoples without interference in their internal affairs and for fruitful cooperation in accordance with the rules and customs of international law for the benefit of international peace and security.

Minutes for Cooperation Document Signed With Malta

LD022239 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] The minutes of a meeting to implement a cooperation agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Malta were signed this morning. The minutes were signed on the Libyan Arab side by Dr Fathi ibn Shatwan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry, and for Malta by that country's minister of industry, Karmenu Vela.

The minutes contained practical measures for implementing the accord concluded between the two countries on the right of property, work, residence, and movement of citizens from both states in either country. The minutes stipulated that citizens of both countries have the right to move from one state to the other with personal identity cards. The minutes also allows a force of Maltese technicians to work in the Great Jamahiriyah.

In addition, the two sides agreed to set up a number of joint projects in the fields of marine fishing and the sponge, tobacco, and clothing industries. The two parties noted the significance of the volume of bilateral trade.

The Libyan Arab delegation was received this morning by Maltese Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici. After the meeting, the Maltese prime minister made a statement to a correspondent from the Great Jamahiriyah radio stressing the importance of intensifying the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly peoples for their mutual benefit.

MOROCCO

Western Sahara Conflict To Dominate Summit

LD032302 Paris Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpts] There will be three of them in Oujda tomorrow morning for a tripartite summit. King Hasan II will receive his Algerian counterpart, Chadli Bendjedid, while King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will be present as well. In addition, the sovereign [King Fahd] is expected in Algeria this evening. For the moment there is the most complete silence in Algiers, with Algerian leaders being careful to neither confirm nor deny this tripartite summit will be held. [passage omitted]

It goes without saying that tomorrow's meeting in Oujda will be largely dominated by the Western Sahara conflict. We now go over to Farida Moha, our correspondent in Rabat:

[Moha] The agenda of the meeting has been settled: It will be a question of bilateral ties, of a relaxation in relations, and, of course, of the Western Sahara conflict. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Libyan Forces Reportedly Still in Darfur Region

JN041053 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, May 4 (SUNA) — The Libyan troops are still existing in the western part of the country -Darfur- the daily *Al-Ayyam* issued here today reported.

The daily quoted what it called a reliable source as saying the existence of Libyan troops in Darfur Region means more backing to the Chadian opposition group led by Acheikh Ibn Oumar.

The source condemned exploiting the Sudanese territories for attacking the Chadian governmental troops adding that the whole matter of the Libyan troops can only be settled by a political decision.

DUP Leader, Papers Cited on Al-Hindi Resignation

JN031155 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — Muhammad 'Uthman al-Irghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], has emphasized that the higher party command of the party's Political Bureau is not suffering from any division or dissent and added that all reports concerning this issue emanate from nonparty sources which seek to undermine party unity and cohesion.

In a statement to the independent newspaper *Al-Siyasah* and published today, Al-Mirghani said that Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has not offered his resignation from the party or the government to him, to the party's Political Bureau, or to the prime minister. Al-Mirghani reiterated that a cabinet reshuffle or the formation of a national government is out of the question and added that these are rumors seeking to undermine the coalition government comprising the DUP and the Al-Ummah Party.

On another level, the independent daily *Al-Usbu'* quoted what it described as informed sources in the DUP as saying that in a talk with the party leadership, Al-Hindi advanced 17 reasons to justify his request to be relieved of all of his executive and party duties. These reasons include: The party has not kept its election promises, the government's performance has been weak, and the people's need for food has not been met. The paper added that the source declined to provide the other reasons, saying this was not the right time to do so. This source also stated that Al-Hindi rejected all attempts to prevent him from offering his resignation and added that he may tender it in the next few days.

Al-Mahdi Meets With Ethiopian Information Minister

EA032201 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met at his office this afternoon with Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, Ethiopian minister of information and national guidance. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said afterward that he had received a letter during the meeting from PMAC Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, who invited his excellency to attend Ethiopia's celebration of its new constitution's ratification next September. His excellency added that they tackled relations between the two countries in all spheres. He explained that during the meeting his excellency's initiative on improving Sudanese-Ethiopian relations was studied as well.

The Ethiopian information minister stressed that Sudan and Ethiopia believe in a policy of good-neighborliness, which they carry out in practice. He said Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi explained to him the pillars of the Sudanese [word indistinct] toward neighboring Ethiopia and asked him to convey it to Chairman Mengistu. The Ethiopian information minister denied that his government was supporting Garang's movement, and stated that Ethiopia does not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs.

Al-Mahdi Receives Southern Party Official

EA032207 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met in his office this morning with Father James Surur, chairman of the Progressive People's Party [PPP], and Major General Peter Cyrillo, governor of Equatoria Region. Father James said after the meeting that they discussed ways of removing the obstacles to the formation of an Equatoria regional government. He added that the prime minister agreed to hold a joint meeting at 0900 tomorrow at the Council of Ministers Secretariat to include his excellency the attorney general; his excellency the chairman of the Council of the South [COS]; the governors of the three southern regions; and the chairmen of the parties from whom members of the COS are drawn. The participants will draft laws governing the south's administration and the coordination between the southern region's council and governments.

Meanwhile, the PPP members in the Constituent Assembly today submitted an urgent memorandum to the COS chairman on current political developments affecting the formation of the government of Equatoria and the COS. The memorandum also urged the southern parties that signed the charter establishing the COS to cooperate with the government in making laws to govern the administration of the south and its relation with the southern regions. The memorandum, submitted by PFP Chairman Father James Surur, was signed by the 11 members of the PPP in the Constituent Assembly.

SPLA Official On Al-Mahdi's Peace Initiative

EA020135 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Major Arok Thuon Arok, deputy COS [chief of staff] for administration and logistics, has said that the peace initiative now proclaimed by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was first initiated by SPLM-SPLA in March 1984 before the fall of dictator Numayri and after the March-April 1985 popular uprising. The national alliance for national salvation positively responded to the SPLM-SPLA call for peace through dialogue. This resulted in the Koka Dam conference in which the fundamental political problems of Sudan were discussed and a working paper, popularly known as the Koka Dam declaration, was adopted and signed by both the SPLM-SPLA and the national alliance for the salvation of the nation in which Al-Sadiq's Ummah Party was one of the signatories.

Maj Arok went on to say that if the so-called peace initiative of Al-Sadiq is a continuation of the Koka Dam declaration, then the SPLM-SPLA will be the first to arrive at the agreed venue. But if it is a new initiative, as it appears to be, then the SPLM-SPLA and the national alliance for the salvation of the nation have adopted an excellent working paper for the Sudanese people for pursuing peace. In conclusion, Maj Arok reiterated that the movement is prepared to accept any dialogue for peace provided that the dialogue is based on the Koka Dam declaration.

Economic Military Corporation To Be Dissolved

EA021611 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
2230 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Economic Military Corporation is to be dissolved and its assets transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Assets of a military nature will remain with the People's Armed Forces. This was decided at a meeting held on 29 April, which was attended by Dr 'Umar Bashir, minister of finance and acting minister of commerce, and General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces and director general of the Economic Military Corporation.

Dr Bashir said the decision followed consultations between civilian and military leaders. He noted that the consultations were held in a spirit of deep cooperation with a view to rationalizing public spending and correcting the course of the Sudanese economy according to the homeland's supreme interests. The finance minister added that committees will be formed to oversee the handover of the corporation's property and its legal dissolution, as well as to make a full inventory of all its assets. Distribution of the corporation's assets will be arranged later by the appropriate bodies.

ETHIOPIA

Radio Reports Mengistu Talks With GDR's Dohlus

EA011527 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, held talks with Comrade Horst Dohlus at his office this afternoon. Assefa Seyum has sent us the following report from the office of the WPE Central Committee:

[Seyum] In his speech this afternoon at the comrade secretary general's WPE Central Committee office, Comrade Horst Dohlus pointed out that during their visit to revolutionary Ethiopia, he and his delegation had been able to see activities in progress, particularly in the political, economic, and social fields, in both rural and urban areas. He said that they understood a strong foundation was being laid for future victories. Comrade Dohlus said that in view of the triumphs consolidated in all spheres by revolutionary Ethiopia, the activities undertaken by the people for the establishment of Socialist Ethiopia were admirable, adding that it was his sincere belief they would reach their goal.

Comrade Dohlus expressed admiration for rehabilitation efforts and the work of resettlement, noting that the resettlement of farmers in villages was another major sign of social development. He reaffirmed to our comrade revolutionary leader that his country stood by revolutionary Ethiopia in its current development process and that it would not hesitate to give the necessary assistance.

For his part, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said that through the decisive and unwavering efforts of the people, revolutionary Ethiopia was consolidating numerous victories in its current activities in every sector. He added that the assistance rendered by friendly countries, including the GDR, as well as their constant cooperation, plays a historic part in our revolution. [passage omitted]

GDR Delegation Departs

EA021916 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] The working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia by an SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] delegation led by Comrade Horst Dohlus, SED Politburo member and secretary, has led to an exchange of experience and has made an important contribution to further developing the strong ties between our two countries. On his departure from Bole International Airport today at the end of his trip, Comrade Dohlus said the exchange of experience with the WPE Central Committee, and in particular the briefing by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, have greatly enlightened his delegation. Comrade Horst said the delegation's visit was based on the existing close relations between the two parties and peoples and was an important contribution to their further consolidation.

Comrade Horst said that reducing the tension in the world created by American imperialism demands the cooperation of progressive countries and [words indistinct].

He explained that during their visit to Gonder and Gojam, the talks held with WPE regional first secretaries and workers allowed his delegation to better understand the victories of the Ethiopian revolution and its unstinting efforts. He added that the continuing activities to establish a people's democratic republic of Ethiopia had made a good impression. In addition, he reiterated that the SED and the people of the GDR will continue to stand by the Ethiopian revolution and give it all necessary support.

The group led by Comrade Horst was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Legese Asfaw, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary.

Berhanu Visits GDR, Meets Officials, Attends Fete

For East German coverage of the visit to the GDR by a delegation under Berhanu Bayeh, foreign minister and WPE Central Committee Politburo member, including his talks with GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, the signing of a cooperation agreement, and his participation in May Day festivities with Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR Council of State, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 28 April Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

KENYA

Official Says Libya Training Local Guerrillas

EA031944 Nairobi THE SUNDAY NATION in English 3 May 87 p 3

[Article by Gray Phombeah: "Nassir Blasts Libya"]

[Text] An assistant minister for lands and settlement, Shariff Nassir, has accused Libya of training guerrillas to cause political chaos in Kenya. He urged the government to close down all embassies known to engage in subversive activities.

Speaking at his office in Mombasa, Mr Nassir, who is also the Mombasa KANU branch boss, said Libya could be using a neighbouring country as a passage to send young Kenyans to Libya for training. Libya is capitalizing on our unemployment situation to mislead our youth, he said.

Some embassies based in Nairobi were unfriendly and engaged in subversion and the government should try to monitor their activities, Mr Nassir said. Said the assistant minister: The government should check such embassies and any found interfering with the affairs of the country should be closed down immediately.

Mr Nassir was backing his labour day claim that Libya is bent on causing chaos in the country and that the north African country was using young unemployed Kenyans to sabotage their own country.

On the influx of aliens to Kenya, Mr Nassir said the country should adopt the Tanzanian system of 10 cells to identify foreigners and weed out criminals.

TANZANIA

President Mwinyi Gives May Day Address

EA020200 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1300 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Iringa — President Ali Hassan Mwinyi today urged peasants and workers in the country to step up their efforts to increase national income, as this was the only way to combat the high cost of living and solve economic problems. Addressing the nation at celebrations marking May Day in Iringa today, President Mwinyi said the major economic problems and the rise in the cost of living are the result of a decline in national income, which has been accompanied by a growth in population. He said, for instance, that food and cash crop production was declining and this was causing food shortages and foreign exchange problems.

During his speech, broadcast live by Radio Tanzania, President Mwinyi said that over the last few years the government had been compelled to import food, and this had created an acute shortage of foreign exchange needed to bring in spare parts, raw materials for industry, and fuel. However, President Mwinyi noted that as a result of the national economic recovery plan implemented in July, some good signs have appeared, including the people's increased production of food and cash crops, especially corn, beans, and cotton. He added that increases in the production of such crops showed that the nation had the capacity to feed itself as well as solve its other problems.

In addition, President Mwinyi explained that another positive outcome of the national economic recovery plan was that many nations and friendly countries have begun giving us aid and credits to bolster agriculture, reactivate industry, boost production, and rehabilitate such service systems as transport, communications, energy, and water.

President Mwinyi commended Tanzanian workers for their perseverance and patriotism during the difficult economic period, and urged them to continue in this spirit to perpetuate national unity. He congratulated Tanzanians for the sense of generosity they showed in their donations to the people of Mozambique, who are fighting the South African-backed MNR guerrillas. He also said Tanzania would remain steadfast in supporting and assisting workers oppressed in South Africa, Namibia, and the Middle East.

During his remarks, President Mwinyi announced new minimum wages to take effect in July. He said the lowest wage for urban workers will be 1,260 shillings, while rural workers will receive 1,060 shillings a month. The president said that starting in July, the government will grant wage increases in phases until the national economy improves. However, he noted that public corporations and private employers were free to exceed the wage rates announced today and pay more as incentives to avoid losing their experienced workers. All other wage scales will be amended accordingly in July.

Party Chairman Nyerere Leaves for Mozambique

EA021538 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1000 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpts] Dar es Salaam: The chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Mwalimu Nyerere, left this morning on a short trip to Mozambique at the head of a high-level party delegation. [passage omitted]

Before returning home the day after tomorrow, Mwalimu is expected to visit Zambia and Zimbabwe, where he will meet the leaders of these countries to discuss the developing countries cooperation commission, which he heads.

UGANDA

Army Captures 200 Rebel Supporters of Obote

EA031544 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Reports from Kampala say that Ugandan rebels seeking to reinstate deposed President Milton Obote attacked a police station near the eastern town of Iganga on Thursday [30 April] but were repulsed by President Museveni's National Resistance Army, NRA.

A Kampala newspaper, *The Star*, yesterday quoted a senior NRA officer as saying that the NRA captured 200 of the rebels and killed an unknown number in the aftermath of the attack on (Buwimyu) police station about 110 km east of Kampala. The paper said the rebels were members of the Force Obote Back Again Movement, FOBA, and that some of them later attacked a Chinese-financed rice scheme at a place called Kibimba.

It said that the main road between Kampala and the Kenya border was closed for several hours on Friday, while the NRA and the local people pursued the rebels. Suspected FOBA rebels have attacked Kenyan lorries along the same road on several occasions in the last few weeks and Kenyan drivers have been asking for military escort before crossing the border.

BURKINA FASO

Chad's Goukouni Meets With Sankara, Comments

AB031400 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, the former GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] president, who has been in our country since 26 April, was received for the second time late this morning by the comrade president of Burkina Faso. He was accompanied by his adviser, Moussa Medela, and the secretary general of his government, (Mahamat Douhane). After the audience, Goukouni Oueddei answered questions put to him by Simon Ilboudo of the National Television.

[Begin recording] [Goukouni] Practically speaking, I have not been engaged in any activity here. I have spent so much time here because, first of all, I feel I am in a friendly country; secondly, since this is the beginning of Ramadan, I marked time in order to prepare myself for the difficult days of Ramadan. After this, I will continue my trip.

[Ilboudo] You are also aware that the OAU ad hoc committee on Chad has just held a meeting in Libreville. What is your position on the Libreville meeting?

[Goukouni] We, too, have our views on the ad hoc committee meeting, as it is a problem between Chad and Libya. In the face of this situation, we share the view of those who champion the cause of peace in the subregion and who feel this problem must absolutely be referred to the International Court of Justice in The Hague so it may be solved by the court and not by force of arms.

[Ilboudo] Has your stay here had any satisfactory results?

[Goukouni] My stay in Burkina has prompted many thoughts. First of all, this was my first meeting with the president of Burkina Faso on Burkinabe soil. As a result of my talks with him, I have learned a great deal about this country's revolution. Since President Sankara took over here, it seems to me that great achievements have been made. I believe that without the revolution, the country would have continued to lag behind in development.

My various inspection tours of the capital have given me food for thought. I think the accomplishments of the president of Burkina Faso and his comrades can be emulated by many African states. [end recording]

May Day Celebrations Take Place Amid 'Tension'

AB011447 Paris AFP in French 1059 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Ouagadougou, 1 May (AFP) — Some tension between labor organizations and the authorities in Burkina Faso surfaced during the celebration of May Day in Ouagadougou.

"For the first time in our country's history, May Day will cease to be the monopoly of petit bourgeois trade unions and will become a day for all workers," the government newspaper *Sidwaya* writes. For his part, Fidele Toe, minister of labor, social security, and civil service, who was responsible for the organization the celebration, said: "We are no longer going to go through the classic ritual of labor leaders presenting lists of grievances to the government on May Day. The best place to present worker grievances is at the people's rallies. Workers should be able to air their grievances every day during their daily activities and not just one day a year," he added.

However, trade unions invited to take part in this afternoon's ceremonies at the labor exchange in Ouagadougou presented a catalogue of claims and grievances despite these warnings. The four main trade unions (National Organization of Burkinabe Workers, Burkinabe Trade Union Confederation, Burkinabe Organization of Free Trade Unions, and Burkinabe Workers Union), the railroad workers union, and all autonomous trade unions have, "in unison and after consultation," addressed a memorandum to the government on the social situation of workers. trade union sources noted that attached to the memorandum was a list of grievances on democratic and trade union freedoms, purchasing power, health, education, and housing for workers.

Other grievances concern problems of employment, an end to "political and ideological" tests to which job applicants are subjected, the maintenance of the retirement age at 55, and the revocation of the measure requiring all civil servants to wear Burkinabe clothing of "Faso Dan Fani" (a handwoven material). These were some of the issues raised in the list of trade union grievances.

Because of this tension and the presence of security forces around the labor exchange building and at the Ouagadougou workers' education center last night, labor movements called off their planned rally. Sources close to the security services say their men were there to guarantee order and security during this afternoon's mass celebration. Members of government, more than 2,500 farmers who have arrived in Ouagadougou to attend the first farmers' symposium, and people from various socio-professional bodies in the public and private sectors are taking part in this large May Day rally.

GHANA

Radio Urges Restrictions on U.S. Embassies

AB031409 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 May 87

[Malick Eshun commentary]

[Text] The essence of President Reagan's policy of constructive engagement in southern Africa has assumed a more dangerous proportion with the U.S. decision to undertake a 2-week military exercise with Zairian troops at the Kamena Air Base in southern Zaire. The military exercise, codenamed "Flintlock 87," which involves an unspecified number of U.S. troops, began in the remote Shaba Province, where opponents of Mobutu have intensified their efforts against the repressve regime.

According to reliable sources from the Pentagon, the CIA has been using the Kamena Base to transport covert U.S. military aid to the bandit Jonas Savimbi's UNITA group fighting the legitimate government of Angola. Experts indicate that the aim of this 2-week exercise is to strangle the liberation movements in southern Africa with the help of racist and mercenary forces, to destabilize the neighboring African countries, and to bring the whole of southern Africa under U.S. domination. This latest threat to the security and stability of Africa, which has been aggravated by the increasing supply of U.S. military hardware to the racist regime in South Africa, also confirms a fact which has been agitating the minds of certain African leaders — that Mobutu has been playing the role of a CIA informant within the OAU.

Mobutu's attempt to break up the pan-African organization over the Western Sahara issue as well as fruitless attempts to create a parallel organization within the OAU are roles assigned him by his sponsors, the CIA. His conflict with neighboring Tanzania, Zambia, and Angola is in line with U.S. plans to destabilize these Frontline States for their increasing support to ANC and SWAPO forces fighting to liberate South Africa and Namibia.

The granting of the Kamena Air Base to the U.S. for use by the Rapid Deployment Force for direct invervention in Africa is also aimed at bolstering the supply of modern military equipment to racist South Africa and strengthening that country's capability to strike at any African country she chooses. South Africa has already shown its banditry acts by bombing a town in Zambia, killing innocent citizens. The South Africa Defense Force recently took delivery of hundreds of helicopters, military aircraft, and pilotless spy planes, which Pretoria uses for its aggressive operations and air reconnaissance against the Frontline States. The U.S. has equipped the racist army with electronic intelligence-gathering systems as well as missile systems of various types.

In 1982, information about American plans to deploy cruise missiles in South Africa filtered through to the African press. Now these plans are actually being implemented with the arrival of about a dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles in the region. Israeli, West German, and U.S. experts have been working feverishly to install launching pads from where progressive African countries could be hit. With the completion of the installation of a launching pad at the Kamena Air Base, Zaire is now in a position to receive cruise missiles.

But can progressive governments in Africa and the world look on while the continent is threatened with the transfer of weapons of mass destruction from Europe [as heard] to Africa? The U.S. must be stopped from this latest act of insanity. Peace movements in Africa and Europe must intensify their efforts at arousing the consciousness of the people against the deployment of these cruise missiles. The media in Africa must lead the campaign to expose the dangers posed by the arrival of these cruise missiles on the continent.

Meanwhile, leaders of progressive African states must coordinate their efforts at finding a common strategy to deal with the situation. Africa must say no to cruise missiles and it is hoped the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations would take positive measures to prevent the crimes being plotted against the peoples of Africa. And for a start, African countries should reduce the number of American representatives, and restrict the activities of American embassies, to show their abhorrence to these hostile policies.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Government Devalues Currency 145 Percent

AB032230 Paris AFP in French 1956 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Bissau, 3 May (AFP) — The Guinea-Bissau Government today announced a 145 percent devaluation of the national currency, the peso, in order to "reflect its real exchange rate." The Council of State (ruling body) said this measure "is part of the government's liberalization policy" and that a policy of flexible exchange rates will be adopted by the Bissau Government.

The U.S. dollar, the official rate of which was 265 pesos, is now worth 650 pesos.

IVORY COAST

Workers To Abstain From Salary Demands

AB011810 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] A big rally was held today at the Treichville [a section of Abidjan] Labor Exchange under the auspices of the UGTCI [General Union of Ivory Coast Workers] on the occasion of Labor Day. [passage omitted] In a resolution on general policy, the workers of Ivory Coast expressed their happiness that some of the demands they made last year have been met by the government. They also voiced their satisfaction with the kind consideration the government always gives their complaints. In light of the fact that the country's current difficult situation does not permit them to make any demands, the workers have decided to voluntarily abstain this year from making any salary demands on the government, despite the continued decrease in their purchasing power. [passage omitted]

LIBERIA

Opposition Legislators Form Independent Group

AB011807 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] Opposition members in the Liberian legislature have grouped themselves into a caucus which they termed as the Independent Opposition Legislators, IOL. The IOL, headed by Grand Kru County Senator Tuan Wreh, groups the 11 opposition members in the legislature who lost links with their respective political parties because of their seats in the national legislature. The opposition members were elected on the tickets of the Liberian Action Party, LAP; Unity Party, UP; and the Liberian Unification Party, LUP. According to the Friday's edition of the *Daily Observer*, Senator Wreh said the IOL, since its formation, has held a series of meetings during which bills presented to the legislature have been debated. He noted that IOL serves as a watchdog to the National Democratic Party of Liberia caucus, which is also an eye to IOL. [as heard] [passage omitted] Senator Wreh noted that IOL is not a political party. It (?comes) together frequently to discuss matters affecting our interest as an opposing group, as well as issues in the interest of government and the people of Liberia.

NIGERIA

Chad Foreign Minister Discusses Goukouni's Return

AB011941 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Discussions for the return to Chad of Goukouni Oueddei, the former GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] president, are progressing well. This was stated by the Chadian foreign minister, Gouara Lassou, who pointed out, however, that no decision on this matter has been made. In an interview to our colleagues from the British news agency *Reuter*, the Chadian foreign minister, who arrived in Lagos yesterday for an exchange of views with the Nigerian authorities, said that Ndjamena was now waiting for the outcome of the constant contacts between the former Chadian head of state and the Chadian Government. According to Gouara Lassou, Goukouni Oueddei, who is viewed as a former head of state, will be welcomed upon his return to Chad with the honors due his rank. The Chadian foreign minister said it was not in his country's interest to humiliate him. Gouara Lassou also expressed hope that Sudan will expel the Libyan troops reportedly stationed in the Darfur region near the Chadian border.

Workers Stage Protest at Labor Day Rally

AB011537 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Workers [words indistinct] Ali Chiroma. Some of the workers had refused to stage a march-past and shunned all other activities programmed for the occasion. They instead chanted protest (?songs), booing and jeering so persistently that it was almost impossible to hear the minister of employment, labor, and productivity, Brigadier Nwachukwu, deliver President Babangida's May Day message. Despite the rowdy atmosphere that [words indistinct] the celebration, the minister stood his ground and read the president's message in full. Some union leaders who spoke to our correspondent on the spot described today's workers' rally as the worst they had witnessed. The protesting workers carried placards with such inscriptions as "Give us food," "Fight unemployment."

Addressing the rally, Alhaji Ali Chiroma said that this year's May Day was taking place against the background of a deteriorating welfare situation for working people of the country. He also talked about the enormous hardships faced by workers and their families [words indistinct]. The NLC [Nigeria Labor Congress] leader commended the government [words indistinct].

Labor Leader Addresses Rally

AB012056 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Nigerian Labor Congress, NLC, has called for a review of past labor laws and proposed labor decrees. The president of the congress, Alhaji Ali Chiroma, made the call in Lagos today at the workers' day rally. He said the NLC supports all future dialogue and negotiations that are characterized by mutual concern and respect for the welfare of Nigerian workers. Alhaji Ali Chiroma assured that the congress will continue its struggle against what he called draconian labor decrees promulgated by the Federal Government. On the withdrawal of petroleum subsidy, the NLC president regretted the government's plans to remove the remaining 20 percent despite appeals from various quarters not to do so in view of the repercussions. He (?condemned) the structural adjustment program, pointing out that nothing has been achieved since its introduction. Alhaji Chiroma lamented that the debt crisis in Africa and the rest of the Third World has assumed an unacceptable dimension. He therefore called for the renouncement of the terms and conditions of the loans.

Today's rally was said to have been disorderly as workers who turned out for the celebration at the National Stadium refused to follow the program of activities. The workers instead embarked on a protest, despite appeals by the NLC chairman, Alhaji Ali Chiroma. As a result of the protest, the march-past and other activities scheduled for the occasion could not be held. The minister of labor and productivity, Brigadier Ike Nwachukwu, delivered President Ibrahim Babangida's speech.

Babangida Urges Accountability

AB020802 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] The National Providence Fund will soon be converted into a social security scheme for contributing workers. President Ibrahim Babangida made this known in his May Day message to Nigerian workers.

In furtherance of this, he said, arrangements are under way to reorganize the fund for better services and enhanced benefits. The president also spoke of the need for financial accountability within the country's trade unions. Major General Babangida stressed that as public institutions, the trade unions should be accountable for all dues collected. He expressed happiness with the response by the union to comply with the directive to meet (?the Thursday) deadline given to them to submit their accounts.

Gen Babangida commended the NLC [Nigerian Labor Congress] for taking the lead in submitting its returns up to date. The president, however, noted that in spite of the overall improvement, some accounts have not been properly rendered. He therefore directed that appropriate action be taken by the unions concerned to rectify (?such accounts).

Ban Lifted on 11 Unionists

AB011058 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Federal Government has lifted the ban on 11 trade unionists. The unionists, who were banned by decree 10 years ago, include Chief (Michael Imodu), (Wahab Goodluck), Chief (B.A.O. Odelemi), R.A. Ramos, J.U. Akpam, and (P.S. Isawa).

Others are: J.O. Oletunde, S.O. Adenihor, (P.O. Nwaneri), M.J. Sule, and the late Mr A.C. Bassey.

In a message to mark May Day, President Ibrahim Babangida said the pardon was in line with the administration's belief in the principles of fundamental human rights and compassion. The president expressed the hope that the fate of the 11 trade unionists would serve as a lesson to the present and future trade unionists.

Chief (Imodu) and the others were banned in 1977 as a result of the report on the tribunal which found them guilty of various improprieties and endless leadership tussles.

Compensation Act Amended

AB011210 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] A decree amending the Workers Compensation Act of 1958 has been approved by the Armed Forces Ruling Council. In a message this morning, the president said the compensation for injury, which was previously limited to workers earning not more than 1,600 naira per annum, was now extended to virtually everyone in regular employment. Those not affected are members from the diplomatic service and the Armed Forces.

President Babangida said the amount payable to dependents of an injured or deceased workman will now go up from 1,600 naira to 42 months' earnings. Permanent and total incapability [as heard] will attract 54 months' earnings as against 2,200 naira, while temporary incapacity now entitles workers to full pay for the first 6 months, half pay for subsequent 3 months, and one-quarter pay for the next 15 months.

On the recent promulgation of the National Minimum Wage Amendment Decree, President Babangida emphasized that the move was motivated by government's desire to increase employment creation, especially in small-scale industries and agricultural operations. He observed that the intention was, however, misunderstood, and government had to amend the law in deference to public opinion and the wishes of the labor movements.

Major General Babangida maintained that the revocation of the order stood.

Airline Attendant Arrested for Drug Smuggling

AB011125 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] A travel attendant with the Nigeria Airways was arrested yesterday at Murtala Muhammad Airport by security agents while allegedly attempting to smuggle out of the country a substance suspected to be cocaine. The suspect, who was to travel aboard a Nigeria Airways DC-10 aircraft to London, was arrested on the last screening point. The substance, weighing 3.5 kg, and valued at 24 million naira, was hidden in the suspect's waistband.

Addressing airport correspondents on the arrest, the managing director of the airline, Air Commodore Okpere, reassured the nation that the management of the airline would do everything possible to smash the airline's hard drug syndicate.

Barely 2 weeks ago, Captain Billy Ekon of the airline was arrested in New York for alleged drug trafficking.

In another development, a Nigerian woman, who arrived from Jeddah last Thursday aboard a Nigeria Airways flight, has been arrested for alleged drug smuggling. This was barely a month after Saudi authorities introduced death penalties for such offenses. [Words indistinct] 11 other Nigerians have been convicted in Cairo, Egypt, for drug trafficking. Ten of them got 25 years each, while one was jailed for 10 years.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Addresses Nation on Workers Day

MB011507 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the party and president of the republic, yesterday affirmed that the people responsible for the nonfulfillment of the anticipated import plan, as approved by the Defense and Security Council, have been identified. They include government and other junior officials. Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos stated this when he addressed the nation on the occasion of International Workers Day, which is celebrated today, and in reply to an appeal by UNTA's [National Union of Workers of Angola] General Secretariat and some members of the party's leadership that he give a speech.

He announced that those principally responsible for the actual degradation in the supply of workers' basic commodities will be demoted or reprimanded, according to each case. The president of the republic stated that government members or junior officials implicated in the failure to execute the anticipated import plan will not be assigned senior posts, such as ambassadorships, and will have no responsibilities for a long time.

The highest-ranking leader of the party and the country observed that despite measures taken by the party's second congress to make state organs more operational, no positive results have been achieved. On this issue, he affirmed that due to the objective and subjective nature of this situation, a meeting of the party leadership will soon be held to assess the situation.

Turning to the reactionary and corrupt behavior of petty bourgeoisie elements, who are involving state and party organs in their activities, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said:

[Begin Dos Santos recording] Reactionary and corrupt elements of the petty bourgeoisie are involving state officials. Through intrigue, slander, disobedience, and covert disapproval they seek to undermine the state and party leadership's unity and cohesiveness, thus delaying the implementation of its guidelines. With the support of several private or foreign enterprises, they seek to promote corruption among cadres with managerial and leadership responsibilities in various ministries and strategic enterprises.

The main kind of corruption, though obviously not the only one, is the use of commissions, typical of the capitalist trade. These commissions are received by officials who do business in the name of the state, and who, instead of turning these commissions over to the relevant organs, secretly keep them, making it difficult to find out anything about them. These people are not distinguished by color or ethnic origin. It is easy to identify them through their social behavior and lifestyles. Their behavior is perfectly distinct from that of several cadres, including petty bourgeoisie, who are patriots dedicated to work and the cause of the working people.

The attempt by these reactionary and corrupt elements of the petty bourgeoisie to involve party and state officials from the upper echelons is aimed at identifying political figures who will tolerate such behavior and at establishing alliances designed to deviate the revolution from its strategic objective — the construction of socialism. The party leadership is attentive and vigilant and will study ways to neutralize this pernicious activity.

This serious phenomenon occurs at a time when our Armed Forces and people organized in territorial battalions are winning great victories against the UNITA armed gangs, while the gang is undergoing severe internal problems as a result of the successive military and political defeats which they have suffered. It is not difficult to understand that behind all this is the hand of imperialism and its agents, which are trying to find new ways to destabilize our revolutionary process by destroying the organs of the party and the democratic people's state from within.

Certain guidelines were opportunely established to solve various problems troubling Angolan workers from Cabinda to Cunene, problems such as: lack of dedication in implementing decisions on priority problems; adoption of subjective criteria to solve sectorial problems; disregard for tasks outlined in the national plan; deliberate nonfulfillment of some of the decisions of the Defense and Security Council; and insensitivity in the search for alternative and timely solutions to urgent problems. Despite these guidelines, there is still a certain amount of confusion among the working masses.

(?Our view) is that all this shows that state discipline is weak and that we should adopt firmer measures to strengthen it. By strengthening state discipline we also strengthen authority in the leadership organs. We must not continue tolerating attitudes and behavior which endanger the gains of the revolution and the working people. Neto's fatherland, which we want to build, is a workers' fatherland where one's attitude toward work and society if fundamental to evaluation. It is here where the citizen should work and live in a disciplined manner, earning money honestly.

Domestic and external reactionaries attack the revolution through corrupt and illicit practices. The revolution should and must defend itself. This is why it is essential to expose and purge from the state apparatus those who have let themselves be corrupted, to discipline the unruly, and to force the lazy and negligent, who are paid by the state, to work harder or to render better service to the people. [end recording]

In a specific reference to 1 May, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that despite the countless economic and social shortcomings we are experiencing, the Angolan people from Cabinda to Cunene are determined to mark the great Workers Day with dignity and to continue the struggle to strengthen their independence and well-being.

The supreme leader of the party and nation hailed UNTA and its trade unions for the manner in which they have enlightened the workers about the existing shortcomings by correctly leading them in the struggle against the true enemies of the people. He disclosed that a meeting between the party leadership and UNTA will be held soon to study how trade unions may participate in the drafting and implementation of the plan for stabilizing the economy. President dos Santos stated that the meeting will deal with the review of the financial management system, particularly the stabilization of the national currency through the normalization of the financial market, the reform of the price system, the reorganization of the fiscal system, the review of foreign exchange and interest rates, and the redefinition of salary policy.

On international issues, President dos Santos denounced the aggressions against the People's Republic of Angola by the racist Pretoria regime, the UNITA armed gangs, and mercenaries of various nationalities. Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos described the UNITA terrorist gang as an instrument and important pawn in imperialism's strategy to dominate the Angolan people and the southern African peoples.

The supreme leader of the party and nation concluded by stating that as long as the threat from the racist South African regime, or other aggressive plans worked out by imperialism, persist, the internationalist Cuban forces will remain in Angola on the side of the Angolan Armed Forces.

UNITA Kills 140 MPLA, 4 Cuban Troops 20-26 Apr

MB020647 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern and Central Africa 0605 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 2 May (KUP) — According to a war communique signed by UNITA's chief of staff, General Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, UNITA forces attacked the military airport and a central logistical base in Luena, capital of Moxico Province, causing extensive damage to both installations.

The attack took place on 25 April and the logistics center, which contained large quantities of ammunition, was set alight causing a huge fire which lasted 10 hours and burned most of the war materiel.

The communique also stated that 140 MPLA soldiers and 4 Cubans were killed and 195 MPLA soldiers injured in military operations from 20 to 26 April in Malanje, Huambo, Lunda, and Moxico Provinces.

In the same period, UNITA suffered 11 dead and 18 wounded.

The most spectacular fighting occurred on 23 April at the confluence of the Lulo and Muvulege Rivers in Lunda Province when UNITA forces attacked the 95th Brigade, which was preparing to launch an offensive against UNITA-controlled areas. In this action UNITA forces killed 108 MPLA soldiers and 4 Cubans.

UNITA forces also destroyed nine military vehicles and captured an MPLA soldier named Jose Gamboa Antonio, as well as some radio transmitters.

LESOTHO

Trade Missions Agreement Signed With South Africa

MB301322 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1321 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Maseru April 30 SAPA — Lesotho and South Africa signed an agreement in Cape Town today on the establishment of a trade mission between the two countries.

The Lesotho Government spokesman said in Maseru today the agreement was signed by Lesotho's foreign minister, Mr Lengolo Monyake, and the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha.

Mr Monyake flew to Cape Town accompanied by a team of senior government officials.

The signing of the trade agreement would involve the establishment of a South African trade mission in Maseru and Lesotho trade missions at the main centres in South Africa.

The agreement is seen as a major development in improving relations between the two countries since the coup that toppled the government of the late prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, in January last year, the spokesman said.

He added the agreement would also strengthen the already existing trade relations between South Africa and Lesotho.

The two countries are members of the 1910 Southern African Customs Union Agreement and the Rand Monetary Area Commission, as well as an inter-governmental liaison committee which meets periodically in Pretoria and Maseru to review matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

The trade agreement has been hailed in Maseru as a positive step forward to facilitate the implementation of the massive R4,000 million Lesotho Highlands Water Project to sell water to South Africa.

He said he hoped the agreement would lead to greater recognition for the role played by migrant Basotho workers in South Africa and for the social impact of the system on the family life of the workers. "Whilst these workers sojourn in South Africa, after this agreement we would expect them to receive the same treatment in South Africa as is accorded a South African in South Africa and in Lesotho — equal treatment," Mr Monyake said.

Referring to regional problems in southern Africa, he said he hoped South Africa and Lesotho could discuss and work out the best way to resolve them.

The preamble to the agreement states that South Africa and Lesotho are convinced the establishment of trade missions will significantly contribute to the promotion of trade relations between the two countries "and the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability, development and cooperation."

In terms of the agreement, the premises of either country's mission would be inviolable and unauthorised entrance barred to agents of the state in which the mission is located. Both states have special duties to protect the premises of the missions, which would be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution. The agreement also provides for inviolability of mission archives and documents and freedom of movement for members of the missions subject to laws and regulations prohibiting entry to zones for reasons of national security.

Missions may communicate by "all appropriate means," including by courier or messages in code or cipher. But wireless transmitters may only be installed with written consent.

Official correspondence of the missions is inviolable in terms of the agreement, as are mission bags.

Personal inviolability is guaranteed to members of the trade missions, who would not be liable to any form of arrest or detention. "The receiving state shall treat them with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on their person, freedom and dignity," according to the agreement. Residences of trade representatives and staff also enjoy inviolability and protection by the host state, while official staff are granted immunity from criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction. The agreement states that immunity may be waived in writing by the host state.

It also provides that mission representatives must respect the laws and regulations of the host state and "have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that state." "The premises of the respective missions shall not be used in any manner incompatble with the functions of the mission."

Both states are obliged to provide transport and other means for mission officials to leave either territory "at the earliest possible moment" even during cases of armed conflict. Facilities for removing archives and the missions themselves must also be provided.

The agreement comes into effect today.

MADAGASCAR

4 Parties Urge Change of Government on May Day

AB021108 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Antananarivo, May 1 (AFP)— Four Madagascar political parties called Friday [1 May] for a change of government at a May Day rally on the outskirts of the capital.

Organisers said 8,000 people attended the rally which was also attended by university students who have been boycotting lectures for more than five months.

The parties said a change of government was needed to restore the island economy, and they called for general mobilisation. They said their coalition for change was formed to protect the democracy which is indispensable for recovery from the present situation.

The four parties are Monima, headed by veteran Malagasy nationalist Monja Joana, which has two seats in parliament; the moderate Vonjy of Jerome Razanabahiny (six seats); the extreme left-wing MFM/MFT [Militants for the Establishment of a Proletarian Regime/Militants for the Realization of the Revolution] under Manandafy Rakotonirina (three seats); and a Monima splinter group, VS [Socialist Group] under Oaharanga Tsihozony.

They and four other parties all belong to the National Front for Defence of the Revolution, the legal framework for political activity in Madagascar.

The main party of President Didier Ratsiraka has 117 of the 137 seats in parliament, and has the support of the nine MPs of Pastor Richard Andriamanjato's pro-Soviet party.

MOZAMBIQUE

Renamo 'Main Base' at Morrumbala Captured

MB040836 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0827 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg, May 4, SAPA — Mozambican Army forces, backed by troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, have captured the main base of the anti-government Renamo movement, SABC radio reports, quoting military sources in Maputo.

The sources said the base at Morrumbala in central Mozambique, about 50km from the Malawian border, had fallen to government forces last week.

No further details were given, and so far there has been no comment from Renamo spokesmen in Lisbon.

Chissano, Machungo Address May Day Ceremony

MB011324 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpt] Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, has once again stressed the important role of agricultural production in overcoming difficulties faced by our country. Joaquim Chissano was speaking in Maputo at a ceremony marking 1 May, international workers day.

Before Chissano's remarks, Prime Minister Mario Machungo gave a speech outlining the fundamental issues currently facing the Mozambican people — defense of the fatherland and economic rehabilitation. [passage omitted]

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Reportedly Break Up May Day Meeting

MB011157 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1139 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg May 1 SAPA — Police disrupted a May

Day meeting of the Lenasia Youth League, the Transvaal Indian Congress [TIC], and Lenasia Students Congress today, the organisations said.

The May Day activities, organised by the TIC, were to be held at the Gandhi Hall in Lenasia, and were to be addressed by speakers from COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions).

About 200 policemen with guns, quirts and video cameras surrounded the hall where about 100 people gathered before the meeting this morning.

Police entered the building and filmed the audience. They were forced to cancel the meeting, an organiser said. No one was hurt and no arrests were made.

A statement by the three groups said: "The Transvaal Indian Congress, the Lenasia Youth League and the Lenasia Students Congress strongly condemn the intimidatory tactics of the security forces in disrupting May Day activities in Lenasia today.

"Considering that there had been no unrest in Lenasia in the past two and a half years, this kind of action can only be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to effectively silence anti-apartheid organisations in Lenasia.

"This kind of provocative action can only spark off unrest in a place like Lenasia."

The three organisations were celebrating May Day in solidarity with the working people of South Africa, they said.

The TIC intended going ahead with a meeting planned for two pm at the Gandhi Hall.

"The Transvaal Indian Congress intends to stand up for its right to have mass meetings. Whilst political parties in the tri-cameral parliament are allowed to have their meetings, the same right has been denied to us."

A copy of the allegations have been sent to the Bureau of Information for comment.

[Johannesbrug SAPA in English at 1459 GMT on 1 May carries the following statement on this story from the Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center: "In accordance with Regulation 3(1) of the regulations promulgated by Proclamation R224 of 14 December 1986, this article falls within the ambit of these regulations and the spokesman for the SA Police has decided not to authorize publication."]

Antigovernment Cape Town Rally Attracts 10,000

MB011545 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Cape Town's colored township, Athlone, has just had what has been described as the biggest antigovernment rally since the current state of emergency was imposed. Close to 10,000 people are reported to have gathered for a May Day celebration with police watching from a distance as COSATU officials spoke out against white rule and apartheid. Several incidents are reported in other Cape Town and other Johannesburg suburbs in connection with May Day. However, in terms of the emergency regulations, no other details can be given.

COSATU, SARHWU Deny Knowledge of Murders

MB301452 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1449 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg Apr 30 SAPA — A South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union [SARHWU] official said union members knew nothing about the death of four South African Transport Services [SATS] workers on Tuesday night. Mr Themba Kuzwayi, assistant general secretary of SARHWU, said the union's members denied any knowledge of the incident.

He spoke at a Congress of South African Trade Union press conference in Johannesburg.

Mr Jay Naidoo, assistant general secretary of COSATU, said he had no idea of the identities of the four men who were "necklaced."

Asked if the men could have been killed by vigilantes, Mr Kuzwayi replied anything was possible.

The bodies of the four SATS workers were found near the Heidelberg Road, Johannesburg, by security forces.

A COSATU statement said COSATU had long come out strongly against the use of violence in labour relations. "COSATU condemns violence that has resulted in the deaths of four SATS workers and makes it clear that we have never condoned violence as means of resolving disputes," the statement said. "If those workers died at the hands of other railway workers we say that that should not have happened. SARHWU has emphatically distanced itself from the events of Tuesday."

COSATU believed the violence surrounding the South African Transport Services dispute with 16,000 transport workers was linked to management intransigence and refusal to deal in good faith with elected representatives of dismissed workers. SATS refused to recognised SARHWU and favoured negotiations with the internal group, BLATU (Black Trade Union of the SATS). Management shunned open and fair negotiations, COSATU said.

Workers were still prepared to negotiate "some kind of end" to the dispute, Mr Kuzwayi said. He said management should meet the union "halfway." Some of the workers' grievances were simple issues and could be dealt with as such, he said.

Vow Not To Intimidate Workers

MB010444 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2151 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 30, SAPA — The SATS [South African Transport Services] workers murdered on Tuesday were forced to wash their own blood from the floor and walls of COSATU house in Johannesburg after being assaulted — and before three of them were set alight under a pile of tyres and the fourth was beaten to death.

This was said in the Rand Supreme Court late today in an urgent application by SATS, during which it also emerged that a fifth SATS worker had been found burnt to death and a sixth was also presumed to have been necklaced. SATS asked the court to order the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union [SARHWU] to ensure that their premises were not used for intimidation, assault or the murder of SATS workers.

An undertaking by the two trade union bodies to this effect was made an order of the court by Mr Justice M.J. Strydom.

SATS also wanted SARHWU to be ordered not to interfere with rail workers.

The court was told the necklaced body of a SATS ticket collector had been found in Tembisa on the East Rand and that another SATS ticket collector had been abducted and was feared dead.

The urgent application followed the arrest at COSATU House last night of 11 of the alleged assailants and killers of the first four SATS workers Necklaced on Tuesday at Kazerne, Johannesburg.

According to Capt Johannes Pretorius, investigating officer in the murders, a witness in the case who may not be named, was taken to COSATU House on Tuesday afternoon. There he saw three of the victims lying on the floor, covered in blood. The four of them were accused of being "informers for the boers." The witness was tied to a waterpipe and assaulted — kicked and beaten — by about 40 people. A coloured SATS workers was later brought in and also assaulted. Water was then thrown over the five of them to wash off the blood and they were told to clean off the floor and walls which were splattered with their blood.

According to Capt Pretorius' statement, the three victims the witness had found bleeding on the floor at COSATU House were taken away at about 7pm on Tuesday by six blacks, who told the witness and the coloured: "When we come back it will be your turn."

The witness and the coloured were driven to Kazerne in a station wagon a little later and there the witness managed to escape. A Defence Force Patrol took him back to the point of escape, where they saw flames and discovered the bodies of the thee blacks and the coloured. The blacks had been burnt to death. Capt Pretorius added that after obtaining a search warrant on Wednesday, police had gone to COSATU House where the witness had pointed out 11 men.

According to Mr A.S. le Roux, regional manager of SATS in the southern Transvaal, a ticket collector at Bosmont station in Johannesburg was also abducted on Tuesday. A burnt body, presumed to be his, had since been found and this had led to seven workers at Bosmont, Newclare and Westbury stopping work because, they said, it had become "too dangerous" to work for SATS.

In another incident, the station master at Tembisa had been called out last night to identify a burnt body. It turned out to be that of a ticket collector from Elandsfontein station. This, Mr le Roux said, had led to the Tembisa station master and clerks declared themselves dead scared to continue working.

Mr le Roux told the court SATS had dismissed 17508 of the 23523 workers who had gone on strike in the region. Today the administration considered firing 189 more. "All these people were forced to stop work through intimidation by SARHWU members. Much of the violence against SATS workers was committed at COSATU House and World Centre (Germiston). According to workers they were taken to COSATU House to be intimidated against working," he added.

Undertakings given by COSATU and SARWHU were made orders of the court by Mr Justice Strydom. COSATU undertook to do all in its power to prevent violence on any of its premises. SARHWU said it was not in a position to deny or confirm any of the allegations against its members, but nevertheless undertook not to intimidate or assault anyone at COSATU House, World Centre, or anywhere else. The two bodies placed it on record before the court that they were opposed to violence. They also undertook to send a copy of the undertakings to the black Johannebsurg newspaper, the *Sowetan*, with a request that it be published.

In a statement today, COSATU distanced itself from the murder of the SATS workers, saying that if they had occurred at the hands of other SATS workers, "it is something that should never have happened." It added it would hold an urgent meeting with SARWHU to find out what had actually taken place. In the statement COSATU also objected to the presence at COSATU House during yesterday's police raid, of an SABC reporting team.

Commentary on Need for Detention of Children

MB290542 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] For some time now, a campaign has been waged against the detention without trial of children. There have, for example, been bumper stickers calling for the release of children.

Last Friday, a foreign organization involved itself in the local campaign. The American Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law took a full page newspaper advertisement, headed "Stop the Detention of Children," that read in part: "What threat can a 13-year-old be? How can an 11-year-old child endanger the security of the state?"

Also last Friday, evidence on children in detention was given in the Supreme Court in Cape Town when the commissioner of police and one of his senior generals replied in affidavits to an application by the Progressive Federal Party for the setting aside of the commissioner's proclamation of April the 10th curbing protests over detention.

Evidence presented to the court told of an 11-year-old girl enforcing a consumer boycott by forcing an adult woman to drink fish oil that she had purchased in defiance of the boycott. The 11-year-old girl had also, with three other girls and a boy, murdered an adult man by attacking him with stones and their bare hands, pouring a mixture of fish oil and petrol over him and setting him alight.

There was, as well, evidence of a 14-year-old boy who, with others, had caught another boy, sjambokked [whipped] him, bound his hands, and set him alight. Afterwards, the 14-year-old had said: "Who he was I do not know."

This evidence of young children taking part in brutal acts of intimidation and terrorism are by no means exceptions.

It was stated in documents before the Supreme Court that in one police division alone, 70 youths between the ages of 13 and 18 years had been involved in murders; 27 in attempted murders; 106 in cases of assault and intimidation; 179 incidents where motor vehicles had been set alight; and 103 in arson attacks on buildings.

No responsible South African can feel happy about the fact that children are being detained. Detention is not compatible with the civilized society that South Africans want and seek. But in South Africa it is civilization itself that is under assault right now, and the assault on civilization is being conducted by, among others, teenagers and pre-teenagers.

No nation with any respect can allow such revolutionaries — no matter what their ages — to be free to roam the streets terrorizing, intimidating, and brutalizing other human beings.

Radio Defends Military Option Against ANC

MB300543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] As expected, there is still indignant reaction in some Western quarters to the South African reconnaissance action against ANC terrorist facilities in Zambia, and the shoot-out which left several dead. Zambian authorities have denied that the facilities destroyed in the operation were occupied by the ANC, but have been unable to explain the photographed evidence there of pamphlets of the ANC and the South African Communist Party. Meanwhile, most government reaction has been to condemn South Africa — officials in Washington even describing the operation as illogical. It is an extraordinary accusation.

The background to such actions against ANC terrorist facilities in neighboring states has been explained many times, and the rationale is fully accepted by Western governments when it comes to their own problems. By its own admission the ANC is dedicated to a revolutionary campaign in which it perpetrates acts of violence against the people of South Africa. It has often boasted of its responsibility for terrorist acts. At the same time there are some states in southern Africa which hardly bother to disguise the fact that they allow the organization to use their territory as a springboard for acts of terrorism against a sovereign state.

In international law — as confirmed periodically in practice, for example by the American strike against terrorist bases in Libya — South Africa is fully entitled to conduct reconnaissance operations or even to destroy those ANC bases. This is well recognized, even if it is not always admitted openly by authorities elsewhere who have had practical dealings with the phenomenon of terrorism.

A year ago Mr Robert McFarlane, a former national security adviser to the United States President, warned the American people that they should overcome the romantic notion of giving terrorists the benefit of the doubt. The United States should exercise its right to strike first, he said. It had to be understood that a country had both a moral and a legal right to move preemptively against terrorists.

There is, in fact, no choice when confronted with the terrorist revolutionary's alternative of destroying or being destroyed. Those who have dealt most successfully with the threat — most notably, Israel — are the ones who have been prepared to meet terrorism's brute force by counterattacking forcefully.

Nevertheless, such action is a last resort. The South African Government has repeatedly shown that it would rather see the issue resolved peacefully, and to that end has issued numerous warnings as well as offers of security assistance to the governments of the countries concerned. It is when all such warnings and offers are ignored that no alternative remains but to take direct action.

Information Bureau Issues Unrest Reports

1 May Unrest Report

MB020800 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0756 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Pretoria, May 2, SAPA — Here follows the unrest report for the period 0001 to midnight yesterday issued by the Bureau for Information in Pretoria:

At Sobantu (Pietermaritzburg) an unknown group of black people stoned a SAP caravan. A black sergeant, Mr N. Kumalo, was slightly injured. No arrests were reported.

At the Merriespruit hostel in Virginia (OFS) [Orange Free State] plus minus 400 black people stoned the mine security forces. Tear-gas was fired and a black man was injured. The group wanted to intimidate the mine workers not to go to work. No SAP action was reported.

At Clermont (Pinetown, Natal) a group of plus minus 30 blacks chased an unknown black man, after he had been founded guilty by a people's court, down Kings Road. The black man would be "necklaced" because of a charge of raping. The SAP arrived at the scene when he wanted to escape. The SAP fired tear-gas and 6 black men were arrested. 2 black men were slightly injured.

At Ntuzuma (Durban) plus minus 100 blacks set a bus alight. No injuries or arrests were reported.

2 May Unrest Report

MB030750 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0748 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Pretoria, May 3, SAPA — The following is the unrest report from the Bureau of Information, Pretoria, for the period 00h01 to 24h00 yesterday:

"An unknown group of people set the signal room alight between Dube and Phefeni railway stations. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"An unknown group of black people attacked a special constable, Mr Bang, by stoning him, at Annedale, black township near Vereeniging.

"He fired birdshot and one black man was injured.

"One black man was arrested.

"The constable was slightly injured.

"At Kranskop (Greytown, Natal) faction fighting broke out between the Nkoje and Thulani tribes on the edge of the alley.

"The SAP found four bodies of unknown black men. No action or arrests were reported by the SAP."

3 May Unrest Report

MB040759 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0753 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 4 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Informations daily unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00h01 to 24h00 (3 May).

"Unidentified persons set fire to two railway coaches at Naledi station in Soweto the day before yesterday. Damage was minimal and no injuries or arrrests were reported.

"A black man was slightly injured when about 30 black persons stoned a private vehicle in Edendale (Pietermartizburg) yesterday. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at about R1500 and no arrests were reported.

"Other unrest-related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings and a petrol bomb attack. No injuries or arrests were reported and damage was indicated as minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB020850 [Editorial Report]

STAR Condemns Intimidation of Strike Breakers

"Supporters of the dismissed railway strikers" have been charged with intimidating, assaulting, and even murdering strike breakers, Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 1 May comments in a page 8 editorial. If the charges are true, "they have done inestimable damage to the image of the union and its affiliates by resorting to torture and horrific murder as intimidation against strike-breakers. After weeks of strike without pay, there are thousands of workers loose in society, fired from their jobs, desperate. Death is an ironically cruel punishment for their efforts to keep themselves and their families alive."

STAR: 'Robust Debate' in Newspaper Ads

One of the interesting features of this election is the campaigning being done by "extraparliamentary interests" in "hard-hitting advertisements due to appear in this newspaper in the coming day," Harvey Tyson writes in his "Undercurrent Affairs" column on page 8 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 2 May. "Never before have disparate 'black' political organistions booked advertisements addressed to white voters. It denies the extra-parliamentary claim that the white parliamentary election is 'irrelevant.' It confirms that no canvass of raw power can be irrelevant." As for the white political parties, never before have they "become involved in such robust debate as they are now conducting in full-page advertisements in our newspapers. What they are saying ought to have been thrashed out in unrestricted, live debate on TV. Fortunately for the newspapers, we take the money and you take the choice."

Candidates Getting 'Panicky'

"This is the time in the election campaign when politicians, even in the safest of contested seats, begin to get panicky. All their self-confidence and bravado waver in the face of the fickleness of voters," John Patten notes in his "The Independent" column on the same page. "Overall, in spite of 11th hour jitters all round, most political observers are not expecting a major shift in party strengths at this election. New faces there will certainly be, but the parties respective representations in the Assembly may not be so very different from today. The main interest may end up being whether the CP can oust the PFP as the official opposition. Even that is quite a long shot."

Election 'Changes Nothing'

The 6 May election "changes nothing," Barney Mthombothi writes in his "All Things Considered" column on page 9. "A bruised and confused nation, crying out for direction, will wake up on Thursday morning with the pathetic lot which got us into this mess still in charge, and even cockier, with the real prospect of getting us even deeper in the mire as they clumsily struggle to find answers to the problems facing us. Sadder still is that the National Party is fuzzy about the type of mandate it's seeking from the electorate. There is no blueprint and it will, therefore, be difficult to read the message coming in with the results. Things will continue in the same old way." "My fear is that these elections could trigger the same sort of eruption and anger that the referendum reaped for the country."

4 May Press Review

MB040855 [Editorial Report]

SUNDAY STAR Urges Votes Against NP

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 3 May says any vote for the PFP, New Republican Party or the independents will "help to move the party [NP]out of the deep rut of inaction and complacency in which it is becalmed. Wherever voters are offered this choice they should take it. Every vote against the prevailing trends in the NP will help jolt it out of that rut." The NP seeks a mandate for "more race tension, insecurity and continuing crisis. For declining morale at home and growing hostility abroad. For political paralysis, repression of dissent, abandonment of human rights and chronic unrest which even states of emergency cannot cure. A mandate for more unemployment, inflation and economic mismanagement. Thus the best hope in this odd whites-only election is to administer the biggest jolt possible to the governing party. A vote cast for the NP is a vote for inaction and the status quo. A vote for any more progressive grouping will help drive home the real message: for heaven's sake, get off your backsides and face the critical realities of our time!"

Independents To Pressure Government

John Maclennan writes on the same page that "all predictions are that if the three Independents win, the National Party will be struck by conflicting pressures of hurricane proportions. This, say the pundits, will be the beginning of the end of a Government which has ruled in controversy since 1948." But, "whatever the outcome for the Independents, their presence in this election has made for a contest unlike any other in the country's modern political history. They set the pace from the start and triggered events which, in the beginning, completely overshadowed the issues and arena chosen by the Government for the election battle." "The most important characteristic of the Independents' challenge is that it emanated from within the National Party itself. The party's traditional election propagandists just have not been able to get a suitable 'handle' on them as they would with existing political parties."

Qwelane on 'Disaster' of NP

Jon Qwelane writes on page 15 in the "Just Jon" column: "Says Mr P.W. Botha about the black people's just struggle to be liberated from the yoke of apartheid and its attendant evils of injustice and degradation: 'It is being said that the struggle is about human rights and that, because human rights are being trampled, the white community must be eradicated and the National Party destroyed piecemeal.' Mr Botha must be told in clear and unemotional tones that black people do not apologise to him or anyone else for waging a determined crusade against racism, oppression, exploitation and injustice by the whites." "If governments such as those produced by the National Party are what the votes of South Africa want, then one must lament that 'it is being said the white community must be eradicated' because, clearly, there is nobody better qualified to eradicate a whole community and a whole country than the National Party through its policies. Mr Botha must concede that National Party rule has been an absolute disaster, and it is time he and his colleagues got back to the drawing board."

NP Makes ANC Election Issue

David Breier and John Spira write on pages 1 and 2 of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* that "many had expected that the Government would use international sanctions and disinvestment as the issue to rally white support. Some thought the ANC would be a side issue. They were not prepared for what hit them. The Nats [NP] made the ANC the Alpha and Omega of their campaign. Everything else, including sanctions have played a minor role." "The Nats have hijacked the election. President Botha not only challenged the opposition to an election, he chose the weapons." "His weapons are crude 'swart gevaar' and 'rooi gevaar' [black threat and red threat, respectively]. A vote for the opposition, especially the Progs [PFP], is a vote for the ANC, the necklace, black majority rule and communist dictatorship." This NP formula "plays on the deepest fears of white South Africans." Breier and Spira believe the NP "simply cannot afford to fight an election on pure policy." "President Botha is forced to find an issue which his party can agree on. And he thinks he found it in the form of the ANC."

SUNDAY STAR: Green Urges Anti-NP Vote

On page 2 of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* Michael Green writes in the "Natal View" column that "voting for the Nats may be a matter of faith, but it is hardly a matter of reason." "The National Party dragged South Africa into a morass by writing every racial prejudice, and there were plenty, into the law." "Now the Nats are asking us again to put our trust in them. Perhaps they realise that the trust is wearing thin these days, hence the disgraceful smear campaign against their opponents. Yes, some of them — not all — are reforming, like reluctant penitents dragging their feet on the road to redemption. I'd like to hasten them along that road, and remind them that the rest of us are also true and patriotic South Africans. That, plus the hope of something better in the future, seems to me sufficient reason for voting anti-Nat."

NP Not Dealing With Real Issues

PFP finance spokesman Harry Schwarz notes in the "Talking Cents" column on the same page that he believes in negotiation, "but negotiation from strength not from weakness. I will not negotiate with someone who puts an AK 47 on the negotiating table. To negotiate meaningfully there needs to be an acceptance that violence is, whatever the words are which are to be used, out." Schwarz further says that the "smear campaigns which are afoot at this time are obviously designed, and any thinking person will see this, to take away attention from the real issues. The real issues, which are whether the Government has a plan for the future of South Africa, whether we can afford that the economic mismanagement of the country continues and whether we can allow crime to increase at the rate at which it is doing."

SUNDAY TIMES Critical of NP 'Complacency'

"Many thousands of people — sensible, patriotic South Africans who can by no means be typed as mad and reckless radicals — have recognised that there must be a better way of peacefully steering their country towards its new future," says the front page editorial comment in Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 3 May. "We will probably find the NP back in power on the morning of May 7. But it should be an NP that has been suitably chastened. It must have received a clear and unequivocal signal that serious citizens are impatient with stand-patting complacency. Substantial support for the Reform Alliance of PFP, Independents and the NRP [New Republican Party] will make that signal unmistakable, at home and abroad."

"This election has not enhanced the reputation of the NP leadership. Many of its members are approaching the end of long political careers. They are unsuited, or unwilling, to adapt or perish. That is why any mandate the Government gets on Wednesday must be accompanied by a shake-up — and a message that we no not wish to live forever in a garrison state; that we see no future in the dead-end street of 'own' and 'general' affairs."

Ad Funding Inquiry To 'Intimidate' Private Sector

The page 34 editorial comments on the Minnik Commission of Inquiry into the funding of the unban-the-ANC advertisements in January this year, saying "if the Government's intent was thus to intimidate outspoken critics from the private sector, it is a dubious enterprise, and unlikely to succeed. Recent speeches by top businessmen have reinforced, not diminished, the private sector's sense of commitment to social responsibility. A second motive suggests itself. In the midst of this most xenophobic election campaign it is always comforting to remind confused white voters of those supposedly vast conspiratorial forces ranged against the ruling party. How better than through the dissection of the quite legal relations between a banker and a politically active client."

Pakendorf Urges Electorate To Vote

Harald Pakendorf, consultant to independent candidate for Randburg Wynand Malan, writes on the same page in the "Another Voice" column: "You should vote. If what is on offer does not appeal to you, make your own choice. In South Africa that is called spoiling your vote. But don't let the presumption of politicians intimidate you. You're not spoiling it. You are telling them you prefer somebody else." "A good deal will depend on this election and its outcome. In a way, the future starts on May 6. Not because this political party or that one must disintegrate, but because too much power at the centre is bad — bad for the country as a whole and bad for you as an individual. A ruling party actually concerned about whether it will get re-elected is a careful party, one which tries to remain in tune with the electorate. This is the kind of situation we want, and your vote, wherever it goes on May 6, is important in this respect."

SUNDAY TIMES: 'Courageous' Leadership Needed

The chairman of the Anglo American Corporation, Gavin Relly, writes on page 34 of *Sunday Times*: "Most of my colleagues in the business community share a concern about the absence of specific ideas or programmes from government which indicate how our leaders intend grappling with our political and, therefore, economic future." "Real negotiation will mean a dramatic, mindwrenching and courageous act of leadership to promote negotiations about the future of a united South Africa with no holds barred." "As current partial arbiters of the country's fate, the privileged white electorate, in my view, should support, as far as possible, candidates who have the courage to move forward to a policy of putting all South Africans first, irrespective of race, colour or creed, and who support a genuine process of negotiation to make that vision a reality."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Addresses Nation on New Economic Measures

MB021324 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1832 GMT 1 May 87

[Address to the nation by President Kenneth Kaunda in Lusaka — live]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen, comrades, brothers, and sisters: I address you on this occasion against the background of a deep and prolonged crisis in our economy characterized by serious dislocations in both our internal and external economic sectors. This is not the first time that I have had the painful but unavoidable task of outlining the nation's economic ills. I have on numerous occasions analyzed the nature and performance of our economy and announced measures designed to deal with our deteriorating economic environment. In the face of the measures which we must now take in this continuous but difficult struggle, it is important that I refer once again to the nature and performance of our economy, especially since 1974 when our economy began to experience the problems that have culminated in the serious economic environment prevailing today. [passage omitted]

We are witnessing a situation where our social fabric is slowly disintegrating, thereby sowing seeds of unrest and undermining the spirit and unity of the nation. This situation cannot and will not be allowed to continue. It is patently clear that far from improving our condition, we are not succeeding; hence the need for a fresh look. [passage omitted]

This crisis in which we find ourselves calls for a new kind of development strategy — a strategy which, while ensuring austerity, recognizes the need to protect the poor and vulnerable members of our society. It must also be a strategy which actively seeks to promote the development of the different sectors and (?joints) of our economy through a system of selective targeting and directing of our affairs. The theme on this development strategy must be wrought from our own sources.

In order to overcome all these problems which have resulted in the present crisis, it will be necessary not only to reactivate the economy but also to change our consumption patterns and consume only what we produce — while using the scarce foreign exchange to import (?inputs) and machinery for agriculture and industries producing essential goods for export.

Gentlemen, I now wish to announce the measures which the party and its government have decided upon in the new economic recovery program.

A. Limit on the external debt service. With immediate effect, the country's debt repayment will be limited to 10 percent of the net exporting earnings, except for new loans which shall be repaid in accordance with their terms. This means that out of our annual export earnings we will deduct the foreign exchange requirements of ZCCM [Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines], ZIM Oil, Zambia Airways, and fertilizers imports, and only 10 percent of what is left after these deductions will go toward debt repayments. The rest of our foreign exchange will be plowed into productive ventures in order to reactivate the economy.

Our creditors need not be unduly worried, as we aim to honor our external debt repayment obligations even though such repayments will be at reduced level. We are honest people. This is the only way this nation can survive.

In taking this measure I can assure the international community that I have examined all other possible alternatives. I am fully aware that this move would not be welcomed by all our creditors. However, before they condemn us, let me put this question to them: Which is a better partner for you in the long run — a nation which devotes all of its resources to paying the debts and therefore grinds to an economic and political halt, or a stable nation, capable of sustaining the repayment of its entire debt?

I appeal to the international community to seriously consider this question as they prepare their positions on our new policy initiative.

B. The introduction of a stable and realistic exchange rate of the kwacha: As regards the exchange rate, you are all aware that the system of auctioning foreign exchange was introduced in October 1985, with the initial aim of dealing with the sharp and continuing deterioration in the country's balance of payments. Under this system, the market forces were allowed to determine weekly exchange rates. At the time, it was felt that the auction system would be the most effective method of allocation the country's limited foreign resources.

Countrymen, friends, as I have said so many times before, the auction method of distributing foreign currency has had some very positive sides to it. However, due to problems of supply and demand of foreign exchange, the desirable results have not been (?achieved). As a result of lacking foreign exchange, the system has had devastating effect on the economy as it has proved by the very inflationary economy. [passage omitted]

The party and its government have therefore decided to reverse the negative impact of the system which we tried with such honest of purpose, sincerity, and determination, (?all we did) without success. With immediate effect, the exchange rate of the kwacha will be fixed at 8 kwacha for $1. The auctioning of foreign exchange is also hereby cancelled, which means that this week's auction will be the last. The new mechanism for allocating foreign exchange, which will be based on the need to achieve the objectives of restructuring the (?economy) and diversification efforts, has already been worked out and will be announced by the Bank of Zambia. We are determined to create an environment which will be conducive to investment, and in this regard the stability of the exchange rate is vital as it ensures financial stability and health in the control of inflation.

C. Interest rates, incomes, and prices: The question of an environment conducive to investment, it brings me to the related aspects of interest rates, wages, and prices in the economy. The decontrol of prices and interest rates was part of the package of other economic measures and could therefore not work in isolation or outside the package. [passage omitted]

In the face of price decontrols and a hyper-inflation situation, (?large drops) of wages and real incomes as a result of the policy of wage restraint only (?led to) mounting social and political tension and a drastic fall in the living standards of our people, especially of the lower or fixed income (?bracket).

In order to redress this situation therefore, the party and its government have decided on the following measures:

1. Manufacturers of industrial goods and producers of agricultural commodities will be responsible for recommending the maximum wholesale and retail prices of their products in conjunction with the prices (?of) the income commission. [passage omitted]

2. In the case of imports other than capital equipment, intermediate input, and raw materials, (?an) importer and the prices and income commission shall determine the maximum wholesale and retail prices.

3. With immediate effect, a price freeze shall apply to all products. [passage omitted]

4. The party and the government have reaffiremd their continued support for collective bargaining as a means of determining wages and conditions of service. However, now more than ever before strict discipline is called for on the part of trade unions. We have worked out a strategy for our economic survival, and all citizens must respond with patriotism and a sense of responsibility.

5. With immediate effect, lending interest rates are fixed at 15 percent with a margin of 5 to 20 percent ceiling. The prices and incomes commission will play a vital role, a very important role, in ensuring that these policies be. [sentence as heard]

D. No-funds-involved import permits: The party and its government have also decided to review the policy on the influence of no-funds-involved import permits. These import permits are issued to importers who wish to bring goods into the country without obtaining an allocation of foreign currency from the banking system. It enables a person or organization with funds abroad to bring any commodities into the country. It has, however, been discovered that a large number of importers use the no-funds-involved permits to import nonessential goods such as luxury motor vehicles, textiles, confectionaries, alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks, and exotic seafoods. [passage omitted]

The drain of important commodities in exchange for nonessential and the unnecessary competition brought to our industries justify restrictions in the issue of the no-funds-involved import permit. Therefore, with immediate effect, no-funds-involved import permits, they will be restricted to imports of essential consumer goods, inputs, and machinery.

E. Restructuring of the economy: I now wish to turn to the crucial question of how we shall improve the performance of our economy on the basis of our own restructuring and diversification efforts. It is important, countrymen, that we fully comprehend what in this development strategy we mean by restructuring of the economy and what we aim to achieve by it.

We aim to improve the productivity of our economy by increasing the capacity utilization of selected sectors and industries within those sectors. In the short term, our priority will be sectors and industries which produce essential or basic need goods for which there are as yet no domestic substitutes and those that produce exportables. For this restructuring exercise to succeed, it would be necessary that imports are restricted to the bearest minimum, except for strictly essential items, services, raw materials, as well as machinery required for increasing capacity utilization in agriculture, and the selected industries.

F. Diversifying the economy: Coupled with the exercise to restructure the economy is the equally important task of diversification. In other context, diversification entails the development of new basis for export, as well as revenue and employment (?generously). A vigorous export drive will therefore be launched which will center on the promotion of nontraditional exports, as well as the exports of manufactured goods as against the export of raw materials.

In order to ensure that this import initiative gets off the ground without much delay, the party and its government have decided to establish an export-import bank which will commence operation soon. This bank will be capitalized by the government to an initial amount of 50 million kwacha. I will announce the appointment of the board of directors within the next few days.

With the establishment of this bank we will remove the extra burden imposed on exporters of nontraditional commodities who apparently have to struggle on their own to find export markets and then worry about receipts of the foreign exchange they have earned from their intitiative. The creation of this bank will ensure that those who are producing the export markets will concentrate on increasing the production of exportable goods.

In order to avoid a duplication of effort, the small-scale producers in the various provinces who wish to take up this challenge are encouraged to concentrate on the growing of what is traditionally suited to their areas. In this way, substantial quantities of exportable goods will be produced, thereby making it economical to mount a massive export drive.

The revolving fund facility: As an additional measure to support small scale entrepreneurs, including those in agriculture and industry, the party and its government have decided to establish a revolving fund facility, and the Bank of Zambia has been instructed to immediately prepare ground for the creation of this fund. I expect that institutions such as SIDO [Small Industries Development Organization] and the Village Industries Service will take advantage of the creation of this facility to create the necessary infrastructure, especially in rural areas. That will encourage the development of viablesmall-scale and cottage industries, as well as agricultural cooperatives and other forms of small scale enterprises.

I expect that the Bank of Zambia will get the full cooperation from the nonbanking financial institutions such as Zambia State Insurance Corporation, Zambia National Building Society, and the Zambia National Provident Fund.

Revenue measures: In addition to broadening the source of our export-in-chief, it is important that the economy's revenue base is widened. I expect that such a strategy will result in the development of a new and more equitable tax structure that will promote the (?optimal) use of property and discourage simplistic and speculate enterprises. Important in this regard is the development of a tariff system which will discourage capital and import intensive methods of production.

Income support problems: As a result of the recessionary inflation, the rate of unemployment has reached alarming proportions. The party and its government must now take urgent and necessary measures to arrest this serious situation. Our first priority must be to mobilize a large section, as large a section of our manpower as possible, to participate actively in the production of goods and services. In other words, we wish to see a reversal of this trend of the recent past in which the number of people in formal employment has sharply, sharply declined. We now want to see a steady and consistent growth of the active labor force. What we now want to see is a steady and consistent growth of the active labor force. In order to bring this about, the party and its government have worked out the following measures.

1. The government can get resources into the expansion of public works schemes, for temporary employment generation, particularly for the unemployed. Projects such as irrigation schemes and temporary income support programs for the urban and rural unemployed will be initiated. Work will be offered to beneficiaries related to their own living conditions and aimed at increasing the purchasing power of the masses. The masses will be mobilized to work on pavements, sanitation, painting government houses, rehabilitation of water supply lines, clinics, schools, repairing roads, and even planting trees. Most of these projects will be sited in the rural areas.

2. The government shall increase public expenditure on capital projects which are low cost with short maturity.

3. Government shall establish a realistic wages policy, with a minimum living wage. After inflation has been contained, the Prices and Incomes Commission shall come up with a minimum wage, on the basis of which regular reviews will be made.

Channeling of government funds to projects in rural areas and small towns must be [word indistinct]. I am therefore instructing the National Commission for Development Planning and the Ministry of Decentralization to draw up estimates of funds which can be absorbed by economically productive ventures in each province. In the first instance, these shall be projects of short duration, which can show a return on investments within 1 or 2 years, which will demonstrate the viability of our new economic strategy. It will also raise the morale of those economically displaced regions and begin to [words indistinct] their future development.

The establishment of a realistic wages policy will be one of the most difficult tasks facing the nation in the months ahead. Workers in all sectors of the economy have endured great hardship over the past few years, and tempers have often become frayed. We need to find a common will among unions, employers, and government to determine a fair basis on which wages can be negotiated. The Prices and Incomes Commission should play its intended role in this regard.

Government's capacity (?for) economic management is (?manifested). The success of these measures will depend on each of us, individually as well as collectively, but greater responsibility lies on those of us who have a direct role to play as employees, employers, businessmen, public officers, and leaders. More responsibility shall devolve upon the public service, which must implement these measures. However, the public service has the most able officials because of (?its) competitive conditions of service, and this should be actively considered.

Fellow countrymen, comrades, brothers, and sisters — this, then, is the new package of economic measures I have decided to announce to you today, and it is my earnest hope and prayer that the nation will rise, rise to the challenges that face us and chart its own path towards economic recovery and (?end hardship).

Finally, may I now address myself to all our supporters, nations or organizations. Friends, we chose the way of IMF of our own free will. Then, again of our own free will, we have decided to try another way. We did not, I believe, offend anyone when we employed IMF methods. Again, we shall offend no one now when we choose this other way.

I do not wish any one of our supporters, donor countries or donor organizations, to think this is a parting of the ways. I ask them — nay, I appeal to them — to see this as a charting out of another way (?which) we think offers us better chances of a recovery, all things being equal. I therefore hope and pray that no one will see in this perfectly normal attempt to break the vicious circle into which we have been thrown by forces completely out of our control [words indistinct] the background. It must be clear to all our friends that we are going to continue to knock at their doors for support for this program, in the same way, in the same way as we have done during the past 10 years or so.

May the good Lord, God Almighty, bless and guide the republic. Thank you.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Speaks on Economics, Liberation Movements

MB011809 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] May Day celebrations took place in various centers in Zimbabwe today. In Harare, the focus of the celebration was a colorful rally at Rufaro Stadium which was attended by thousands of people including the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, several cabinet ministers, and representatives of liberation movements. [passage omitted]

Addressing the rally, Comrade Mugabe said the government will remain committed to ensuring acceptable minimum wage levels for the nation's workers. He said the government is anxious to ensure that collective bargaining and particularly the role of labor in that process is strengthened and deepened. The prime minister said the government will constantly review wages and salaries despite the economic problems it is facing.

Comrade Mugabe said the government will continue to introduce legislation under the measures which it considers to be key instruments for the transformation of the social role of the workers to give them greater security, authority, and satisfaction. The prime minister urged all Zimbabweans to work tirelessly for the fulfullment of the 5-year National Development Plan.

Comrade Mugabe expressed solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa, Namibia, and Palestine and assured them of Zimbabwe's commitment to the liberation of all people fighting for freedom, justice, and independence. He also expressed support and solidarity with the people of Mozambique and Angola in their fight against the South African-backed bandits.

Criticizes RSA 'Aggression'

MB012029 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1322 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Harare, May 1, SAPA — The unfavourable economic climate in Zimbabwe was aggravated by that country's proximity to the "South African apartheid regime which was bent on a course of naked destabilisation of all its black-ruled neighbours," Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said today in his May Day address to the nation.

The regime's naked aggression against Zambia barely one week ago amply testifies to its barbaric and criminal character.

In consequence of their heinous acts, massive human and financial resources have had to be channelled into countering this destabilisation instead of going into our development projects and programmes.

The prime minister said that, within this context, Zimbabweans should brace themselves to make the necessary sacrifice for their own survival and development.

As long as the apartheid regime exists within our region, we shall never enjoy peace; our attempt to create a just, peaceful and prosperous society will continue to be at great peril.